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Palestinian Affairs

Debate Over Joining Peace Talks Continues

Hamas Demands Withdrawal

JN1204184093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement affirming that the attempts to return to the negotiating table coincide with the stepped-up enemy terrorist campaigns against our kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and that the all-out genocidal war being waged against our people is being met with further concessions and by chasing elusive gains at the expense of the higher national interests, the overriding national consensus, our nation's rights and values, as well as our basic issue.

The Hamas statement adds: Any circumvention of the deportee issue would be a circumvention of the rights of the cream of our people. Besides, such a thing would be a clear acknowledgement and endorsement of the enemy's right to resort to such crimes in the future. Moreover, such a thing would be a flagrant violation of the basic and essential principles treasured by our people with regard to the deportation policy.

The statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement goes on to say: Some of those harboring delusions from among the settlement advocates claim that the enemy will offer them concessions. It is the right of our people to wonder whether a few figures selected by Rabin and Christopher should determine their future singlehandedly. Similarly, we have a legitimate question regarding our people's right to wonder whether the Zionist entity's failure to honor Resolution 799, which contains clear and unequivocal terms and provisions, will necessarily lead to a failure on its part to honor the other relevant UN resolutions, the implementation of which is sought by these people.

Concluding its statement, the Hamas says: We reiterate the call for withdrawal from the political catastrophe jeopardizing our destiny; namely, the negotiations. We condemn the irresponsible statements being made in this regard. Furthermore, we express our strong indignation over the audacious statements being made by these people in a manner that undermines the cause of the steadfast deportees and instigates against them. Similarly, we would like to highlight the general strike called for 17 April to show solidarity with the heroic deportees, to underscore the people's cohesion with them, and to affirm the people's rejection of the humiliating negotiations.

End to Territories' Closure Demanded

TA1004184093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The heads of the Palestinian delegation intend to demand that Israel lift the closure imposed on the territories prior to the resumption of the peace talks on 20 April.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, today called on Knesset members to pay an urgent visit to the Gaza Strip to receive a first-hand impression of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities in the refugee camps. He claimed that the current searches are unprecedentedly harsh.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that, in fact, the PLO has already decided to participate in the next round of talks, with Faysal al-Husayni participating in the Palestinian delegation. This follows an understanding that the gestures Israel will make will include, among other things, the return of 50 veteran deportees.

Several minutes ago, our correspondent Amir Hay spoke on the phone with Faysal al-Husayni, who is currently in Tunis:

[Begin recording] [Hay] Have you already made a decision on whether you are returning to the talks in Washington next week?

[Al-Husayni] No decision has been made so far, but very serious discussions are currently taking place about the issue because there are still very important points that we wish to clarify and know more about. [passage omitted]

[Hay] Mr. al-Husayni, are there additional things you expect to receive from Israel before you decide to return to the negotiating table in Washington next week?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, there are things we want to know more about, to clarify, to learn more details. At the same time, I do not believe it will help if I discuss this with a television correspondent over the phone. Please, wait a few more hours and then we will discuss all these issues in clearer fashion. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Discusses Conditions

LD1204185393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] According to Brother Faysal al-Husayni, Israel has taken a big step to face up to reality [sentence as heard]. However, he considers that this development is not enough to guarantee the participation of the Palestinian delegation in the forthcoming round of negotiations.

Regarding Israel's agreement on his inclusion in the Palestinian delegation, Brother Faysal al-Husayni said that this decision means that Israel is ready to deal with reality without prevarication and maneuvers. He added:

Everyone is aware that I am the chairman of the negotiating delegation, and the world deals with me on this basis, as does the United States.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni indicated that he can now join the negotiating delegation and undertake duties of supervision and coordination between bilateral and multilateral delegations. He announced that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will continue to lead the delegation to the bilateral negotiations, and Muhamad al-Hallaj will lead the delegation to the multilateral talks. He said that each one of them is performing his duties in a highly competent way which fully expresses the Palestinian stance.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni stressed that he will go to Washington in mid-April to clarify some points before taking a decision on the Palestinian participation in the ninth round of negotiations.

With regard to Palestinian conditions for such participation, Brother Faysal al-Husayni stated that the United States is thinking about a comprehensive deal that would include the issue of the Palestinian deportees and other matters regarding Israel's attitude toward the form and content of the negotiations process.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni indicated that the deportation issue does not only relate to those at Marj al-Zuhur, but it also deals with all those who were deported since 1967. He expressed his preference for reaching a long-term solution that would guarantee that Israel would drop this practice.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni drew people's attention to the fact that the forthcoming phase will define our future, and that we are prepared for all eventualities. He indicated the existence of three possible eventualities: negotiations; fighting; or a combined operation that includes elements of field fighting and negotiations.

Brother Faysal al-Husayni stated that if Israel can be convinced that the negotiations process, based on international legality, is the only demand for implementation, then all parties will be in a better position. He stressed that Palestinians inside the occupied territories tend to lean toward participation in fruitful negotiations.

U.S. Position on Talks Voiced

JN1004061193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 93 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—A senior State Department official has confirmd that a compromise has been reached to break the stalemate in the Middle East peace process and voiced confidence that all parties would return to the next round of talks in Washington on April 20.

"A very significant package of statements, gestures, and actions has been elaborated which could come and will come into play as soon as the Palestinians make a positive decision to come to the round on April 20, and that is the key," said Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for the Middle East affairs.

Mr. Djerejian, speaking in a satellite interview with journalists based in Cairo, Damascus and Amman Thursday, would not go into details, saying "they reflect the very substances of our diplomatic exchanges with the parties, specifically with the Palestinians, the Israelis, and others."

According to Palestinian sources in Amman who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday, the "package" involves American and Israeli declaration of certain commitments to be issued immediately after the Palestinians announce a decision to go back to the negotiating table on April 20.

The sources said the Israeli commitment would include an undertaking not to resort to expulsion of Palestinians and to improve the Jewish state's human rights record in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and a reaffirmation that the basis for an Israeli- Palestinian settlement would be U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

On its part, Washington will, according to the source, issue a statement restating its commitment to and role in the peace process in implementation fo 242 and 338 as well as undertaking unspecified actions to consolidate a six-point agreement reached between the Palestinians and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the secretary's visit to the Middle East in February.

The peace talks were stalled after Israel expelled over 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon in December and refused to abide by a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for their immediate repatriation.

The Palestinian negotiating team refused to return to the talks until the expellees are repatriated, while Israel, coming under international pressure, only offered to take 101 of them back immediately and the rest before the end of the year.

The Palestinian acceptance of the "package"—which also includes a provision for an "accelerated phased return" of the expellees stranded in Lebanon—is expected to be announced at an Arab coordination meeting in December on April 16.

"We are certain that the parties will be at the table on April 20," Mr. Djerejian said. "Following our contacts with (Egyptian President Husni) Mubarak, (Palestinian negotiating team leader) Faysal al-Husayni, and from our ongoing contacts with the other parties, we feel confident that the talks will resume on April 20."

Mr. Djerejian—a senior "hold-over" from the Bush administration who is closely involved in the Middle East peace process that was launched in Madrid in October 1991—said the Clinton administration was giving "one of the highest priorities" to Arab-Israeli

peace and hence the visit of Mr. Christopher to the region in February in his first foreign trip after assuming office.

"That must tell you that President Clinton has attached the utmost importance to achieving an Arab-Israeli peace settlement," Mr. Djerejian said. "He (Clinton) firmly believes that there is an historic opportunity here that must not be missed, and he is willing, despite all... other pressing priorities on American foreign policy interests, he is willing to devote his energies and certainly the energies of Secretary of State Christopher to moving this process forward."

Throughout his comments in reply to questions, Mr. Djerejian underlined several themes: Significant progress could be made in the peace process in 1993 and time should not be wasted; the Palestinians should return to the negotiating table on April 20; all parties should forward "meaningful positions on the substantive issues—land, peace and security"—and Washington would play the role of a "full partner" but not exercise any pressure on Israel.

The U.S., "together with our Russian co-sponsors, is prepared to pay the role of a full partner in the talks, to act as an honest broker and facilitator, not an arbiter," he said.

The U.S. official decried the continuing "violence and killings on both sides" in the Israel-occupied territories saying it could undermine the peace process. He said the possibility of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip was not discussed during the recent Egyptian-American talks in Washington.

Mr. Djerejian, however, offered an insight into American thinking on Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in return for peace with the Arabs.

Rejecting as "false," the analogy between Security Council resolution 242 and 799, which demands an immediate Israeli repatriation of the Palestinians expelled in December, Mr. Djerejian said:

"Quite frankly, I will be delighted if... I could sit here and say that I am confident that 242 and 338 will be fully implemented by the end of the year." [passage omitted]

Prospects for Resuming Talks

JN1104085993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Today's papers highlight the peace talks due to resume shortly in Washington and Israel's defiance of the United Nations and international resolve.

Under the headline "Israeli Illusions and Deceptions," TISHRIN says: Anyone who thinks that Syria might accept a fait accompli is mistaken. Also, anyone who thinks that Syria might accept Israel's conditions and dictates is cherishing a great illusion.

The paper adds: Syria has repeatedly affirmed that ensuring the success of the peace talks depends first of all on surmounting all Israeli obstacles, removing the mines it has been planting, and ending its deplorable terrorist practices, so as to pave the way for a just, durable, and comprehensive solution.

The paper goes on to say: Syria's positive response to the political peace efforts was originally based on a firm, strong rejection of occupation and its policies, such as holding on to the Arab territories. This response has paved the way for a real, just, and comprehensive peace, because it is evidence of Syria's strength. This position is absolutely not subject to bargaining to weaken Syria's stand, which derives from constant pan-Arab principles and the elements of peace, which can never be divided or emptied of their contents.

TISHRIN notes that Syria has explicitly said that achieving a just, comprehensive peace stems from the unity of the Arab position and the collective participation in the peace talks along parallel tracks.

The paper asserts that unilateral solutions and partial deals are rejected and condemned and contradict with peace, since they complicate rather than redress the situation.

The paper goes on to say: Syria has been eager to enable the peace process to reach its desired prospects and objectives. Syria has also asked not to allow the peace process to digress from these objectives, saying that time should not be wasted on procedures and formalities that overshadow substantial issues. Syria has unequivocally said that the talks should be fruitful, useful, and constructive, making Israel respond to the peace requirements and elements, and not to evade them.

AL-BA'TH says: As the days go by, Israel's defiance of the United Nations and international resolve grows stronger. This takes place amid various indications, including the pledges made by the U.S. secretary of state to Israel; the announcement made by the Israeli Embassy in Washington that all Israeli Army operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are supported by the United States; and after the United States has renewed the stand adopted by previous administrations to deprive Europe, the United Nations, and other world countries, from any role in the search for peace.

The paper wonders how the United States maintains a balance between its partnership in the talks and helping Israel finance Jewish immigration and settlement activity.

The Madrid conference was held upon a U.S. initiative. The efforts made to perpetuate the talks in Washington were also American. The new thing is the pledge made before Congress that the United States will side with Israel.

AL-BA'TH adds: Everyday, we sense that there is a shirking of responsibility and a mounting Israeli challenge to the United Nations.

The paper concludes: Using double standards when dealing with UN resolutions causes the United Nations to lose its prestige and reaffirms that Israel's arrogance and challenge stem from its confidence that the United States controls international decisionmaking and that the United States is Israel's protector and in control of the United Nations and its resolutions.

For its part, AL-THAWRAH says: A few days before the proposed date to resume the bilateral peace talks, we have not noticed so far any change in the Israeli position that can create an atmosphere conducive to holding the talks on time. Israeli leaders make daily provocative statements, asserting full challenge to international legitimacy and its resolutions. They also try to create a tense atmosphere, escalate matters, and do anything that may destroy the peace process.

The paper notes Rabin's statement yesterday that he is determined to maintain the siege on the occupied West Bank and Gaza and continue to suppress, persecute, starve, and displace Palestinians. Also, Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres asserted adherence to the occupation of Jerusalem, saying this topic is not for discussions.

The paper adds: Given these statements, which reflect blatant disregard for peace as well as Israel's determination to weasel out of any commitment to the basic elements to reach a comprehensive, just peace, the question here is: What kind of peace does Israel want, given that it would not stop settlement activity, does not want to withdraw, and is practicing an outmoded suppressive, racist policy totally conflicting with the requirements and needs of peace?

Does Israel think that the Arabs will give it land and peace together? Does it think, moreover, that they will give up their rights and territory so that it can establish the peace it wants; namely, a partial, incomplete peace that allows it to take hold of everything without giving anything in return?

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the Arabs have engaged in the peace process, in line with international principles and resolutions as defined by international legitimacy. They are serious about achieving a just, comprehensive peace that does not fall short of regaining all of their territory and rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Rabin, who cites the pretext of security to justify the practices of his suppressive forces in the occupied Arab territories and to find excuses to pursue the policy of occupation and expansion, can no longer advance his deceptive, deluding arguments. Rabin can no longer deceive the international community by such false arguments, since the simplest process of reasoning shows that just, comprehensive peace is the only guarantee of security for all.

* Hamas Expected To Amend Charter

93AF0491A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Apr 93 pp 1,4

[Article by Jamal Khashuqji: "Hamas Amends its Charter; Breaking with Muslim Brotherhood, Adopting Moderate Tone"

[Text] Jeddah—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is expected to announce drastic changes in its charter. It is currently holding contacts for this purpose with its leadership at home, in the deportees camp, and abroad in order to finalize the amendments that are almost "a new convention."

One of the most important expected amendments concerns toning down the rhetoric and zealous language in the present charter, which was issued four years ago, and to adopt a more moderate language. The movement is inclined to make decisions on essential issues, the most important of which are disengagement with the worldwide Muslim Brotherhood and defining a stand on the question of the "coming independent Palestinian state," which is expected to be practical and moderate. The amendments will note Hamas's "commitment to restricting military action inside Palestine" and will ban any form of internecine fighting between the Palestinians.

Sources close to Hamas told AL-HAYAH that the idea of the amendment is an old one, but it has gained momentum "as a result of the recent developments that culminated with Hamas becoming a principal factor in the struggle. They said that contacts are under way with the brothers, but the prevailing belief is that this is an appropriate time to announce the amendments. The sources spoke about a major role for the deportees, "who, because of their deportation and their being free of the chores of everyday life in their towns and villages, have found the time to reevaluate the course of action."

The sources said the deportees have 23 issues on which they need to give an opinion. "Some of these issues are political, some economic, and some legal. The issues concern the Palestinian people at home and abroad and their relationships with the various parties."

It is understood that the deportees are in constant contact with Hamas leadership in Jordan and in several Arab countries, as well as in the United States and Europe. The contacts are taking place over a telephone that has been made installed in the camp. The deportees have also been provided with books and reference aids.

According to a source who declined to be named, the movement's leadership has not yet agreed on "calling for the establishment of an independent Islamic state in Palestine," because some members want to drop that and replace it with terms referring to an Islamic community.

Two new provisions are expected to be added to the charter, the first of which comes under the title "action strategy." This was a Hamas document that was never proclaimed before. The document is an assertion that

military struggle should be confined to Palestine only, and it rejects military action against Israeli targets abroad. The second provision affirms the rejection of fighting within the Palestinian ranks and bans it.

It has become apparent on the basis of the contacts AL-HAYAH carried out with the parties concerned that the Hamas leadership is inclined to adopt a conciliatory tone in order to avoid a clash with the United States and the West, to reassert Palestinian unity, preserving the PLO as a political entity that embraces all Palestinians, and to avoid presenting Hamas as a substitute to the PLO. But in the meantime, a "substitute leadership" to the present one should be sought through democratic process to convince the Palestinian people at home and abroad and through the escalation of armed struggle in the occupied territories.

The sources said the moderate tone in the expected amendments will not touch two provisions in the existing charter, which Hamas leadership believes they constitute one of the religious fundamentals that nobody can change or substitute. The first is that "there is no solution for the Palestine problem except with jihad." This is because "Hamas's belief in jihad will remain even after peace is achieved. Our understanding of jihad is based on the principles and standards the Messenger, may God's blessings be upon him, has laid down and practiced in his jihad, which was neither violent nor terrorist."

The second provision says: "The land of Palestine is an Islamic endowment to the generations of Muslims until doomsday. No part of it can be conceded or relinquished. No Arab state, or all the Arab states, or the PLO, or any other organization be it Palestinian or Arab may do so."

The sources said that this is not contradictory to the current dialogue in Hamas ranks regarding the proposed substitutions that ranges between accepting two states or accepting one state combining both the Arabs and the Jews based on democracy that enables the majority to rule.

Hamas's charter was issued on 18 August 1988, one year after the intifidah was launched. The movement members said it was written and endorsed internally in circumstances that called for it to be issued in a hurry. It was in response to accusations by the PLO against the Islamic trend. Its birth was announced officially and its objectives and strategy were laid down. The Muslim Brotherhood, particularly in Jordan, received it with great welcome and was distributed on a wide scale.

Article two of the charter provides that the movement is a "wing of the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine." The Muslim Brotherhood is a worldwide organization and the biggest Islamic movement in modern times. It is distinguished for its deep understanding, true perspective, and an all-encompassing perception of Islamic concepts in the various fields of life.

Hamas sources said that this provision was laid down when the movement was in need to "draw strength" from "the Brotherhood" against the PLO. But it has now become a burden on both parties, since it is obvious "that Hamas is quite independent and makes its own decisions and, therefore, should have its own foreign policy. Why should it involve itself in the Brotherhood's differences with certain regimes or let the Brotherhood take the responsibility for its decisions. But this does not mean breaking relations or halting cooperation with them. Hamas is indebted to the Brotherhood and recognizes its pioneering role. Their methods of Islamist advocation will continue to be used in training the movement's sons at home and abroad. The proposed amendments will maintain a hostile attitude toward Israel which is based on religion, but it differentiates between Israel as a power of occupation and aggression and Zionism as a racist movement aimed at expelling the Palestinian people from their land, and Judaism as a heavenly religion."

While the present charter does not call for the "destruction of the State of Israel," this is subject to different interpretations in this regard which Hamas cannot overlook since it is found on ideological basis as it is said in Article 7: The Islamic Resistance Movement looks forward to fulfilling God's promise, no matter how long it takes. The Messenger, may God's prayers be upon him, said: "When the hour strikes, the Muslims shall fight the Jews, and so the Muslims will kill them. When the Jew hides behind rocks the trees, the rocks and trees will say, come you Muslim, worshiper of God, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him."

The movement will preserve Article 7 for the same ideological reasons. The land of Palestine is an Islamic endowment in its entirety. Nobody has the right to dispose of it. The phrase "there is no solution for the Palestine problem except through jihad" in Article 13 will remain.

In Article 14, the sentence "the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the Islamist" will be added to the third subsection concerning the liberation of Palestine as a human gesture in an attempt by Hamas to address Western opinion.

OPEC Affairs

Reportage on OPEC Talks on Quota Busting

Talks Open 12 Apr

NC1204213493 Paris AFP in English 2040 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Excerpts] Muscat, April 12 (AFP)—OPEC oil ministers late Monday opened informal talks dominated by Kuwaiti threats to boost its production over alleged quota busting by Iran and other OPEC members.

The ministers of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were meeting ahead of talks Tuesday with their counterparts from independent producing countries to discuss proposed Western energy taxes.

"Some of them will deny they are overproducing, but we know for sure there are violations," Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al- Baghli said.

"We will monitor the market closely in the next month and if violations continue, we will not be obliged to respect OPEC's agreement."

Kuwait, recovering from the 1990-1991 Iraqi occupation, reluctantly agreed in February to stick to its quota of 1.6 million barrels a day from March. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

The violations have kept OPEC's output at nearly 700,000 bpd above the official ceiling of 23.58 million bpd. This has stabilised prices at about two dollars below OPEC's benchmark of 21 dollars.

Al-Baghli said he had explained Kuwait's position to OPEC President Alirio Parra and Secretary General Subroto before the cartel opened informal talks late Monday. [passage omitted]

Oil sources here said OPEC ministers were unlikely to reach major decisions on output.

"I don't think there will be any major decision on output cutbacks" one source said. "But the meeting is useful as they could sit and discuss what's going on. Recent threats are not helpful to the market."

The sources said they believed prices could collapse if violations continued as demand begins to slow down in the second and third quarter.

The main meeting on the proposed energy taxes will open Tuesday and will bring together at least 24 oil ministers plus delegates from the U.S. states of Alaska and Texas and the Canadian province of Alberta.

Malaysia wants oil producers to cut production and boost oil prices to offset the effects of anticipated Western energy taxes, its justice minister, Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, said, adding the issue would be discussed Tuesday.

But he said Malaysia would not reduce its production further.

"We have already adjusted our production to 635,000 bpd (barrels per day) from around 660,000 bpd. This is a very reasonable level," he said.

Kuwait Warns on Violations

NC1204150593 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Muscat, April 12 (AFP)—Kuwait warned here Monday it would "take proper steps" if it were proven that other OPEC members were violating their quotas.

"We are considering taking proper steps if those allegations proved to be true," Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli told reporters on arrival in Muscat.

In Kuwait city Thursday, al-Baghli warned that Kuwait might exceed its OPEC quota by 400,000 barrels a day (b/d) following reports that Iran and Nigeria had broken their March quotas.

Asked to comment here on the reported violations, he said: "I would not specify at this stage. I would like to wait and hear what they will say at tonight's meeting."

The oil ministers of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were expected to meet late Monday to discuss reported quota violations.

Iran Exceeding OPEC Quota

NC1204172793 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Muscat, April 12 (AFP)—Iran has been pumping 3.39 million barrels of oil per day (bpd), exceeding its OPEC production quota by 50,000 bpd, an Iranian official said here Monday.

"We are producing near our quota. We should not make this issue a big problem. I am hopeful it will be solved," according to Kazem Zadeh, an Iranian delegate who arrived for an OPEC meeting here.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in February set Iran's quota at 3.34 million bpd as the 12-member cartel agreed to cut production to boost sagging prices.

Kuwait has threatened to exceed its quota of 1.6 million bpd if it were proven that other members have violated their quotas.

Earlier Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i refused to comment on reports that Iran was responsible for most of the 700,000 bpd in excess OPEC production.

The specialist newsletter, MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY, said Iran had produced 370,000 bpd more than its March quota, and the International Energy Agency said Iran was producing 3.62 million bpd.

Oil sources said Aqazadeh-Kho'i was expected to meet OPEC President Alirio Parra before the talks late Monday of the 12 OPEC ministers.

Iranian Production Below OPEC Quota

NC1204185893 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Muscat, April 12 (AFP)—Iran has been pumping 3.339 million barrels of oil per day (bpd), 1,000 bpd under its OPEC production quota, Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said here Monday.

Earlier an Iranian delegate, Kazem Zadeh, said Iran was producing 3.39 million bpd, or 50,000 bpd above the quota.

"We are not exceeding our limit. We are producing 3.339 million bpd," Aqazadeh-Kho'i told reporters. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached

NC1304061293 Paris AFP in English 0040 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Muscat, April 13 (AFP)—The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed early Tuesday after informal talks to respect their production ceiling of 23.582 million barrels a day (bpd), OPEC Secretary-General Subroto announced here.

"There is a political will by members to strictly abide by output," Subroto told reporters, adding that they would inform the OPEC Secretariat of tanker movements, which "will enable us to check the accuracy of supply."

He said Kuwait, which had threatened to break the OPEC agreement charging that Iran and Nigeria had exceeded their production limits, would abide by its quota if all other members adhered to their limits.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said in Tehran on Monday that Iran's output has been 1,000 bpd less than its OPEC production quota, denying a statement by the Iranian delegate here, Kazemzadeh, that it was 50,000 bpd above the Iranian quota of 3.34 million bpd.

Various sources maintained however that Iran was largely to blame for the surplus registered by OPEC overall in March.

The Compliance Committee, which met Sunday in Qatar, furnished figures showing that total OPEC production exceeded the overall ceiling of 23.58 million bpd by 290,000 bpd in March, Subroto said.

"We recognized in March this was a carryover of high supply in February, when output stood at 25.6 million bpd," he said.

"But April figures will be almost equivalent to the ceiling set for the second quarter" at February's meeting in Vienna, he said.

Subroto said the Compliance Committee, which groups him with the Libyan and Qatari oil ministers, would monitor the market closely to ensure adherence by member states to their April quotas.

He provided figures showing that Iran, Kuwait, Libya, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela were slightly below their quotas, while Algeria and Saudi Arabia had strictly complied with theirs.

Nigeria, which produced nearly 173,000 bpd above its quota, had agreed to return to its production limit, he said.

Gabon was above by 15,000 bpd and Qatar by the same amount.

"We are asking all members to stick to their quotas, including Iraq," Subroto said. "We expect all of them to do so," he said.

Iraq was absent from the meeting, which came ahead of talks by OPEC and independent producers Tuesday on energy taxes proposed by the United States and the European Community. Iraq, which was allocated 100,000 bpd for local consumption, produced 615,000 bpd, Subroto said.

He said oil prices averaged 18.6 dollars in March, 2.4 dollars below the benchmark of 21 dollars.

The 12 OPEC member states are to meet here Tuesday with their counterparts from oil-producing countries outside of OPEC to try to open a dialogue with consumers of crude oil and avoid the proposed energy taxes.

Malaysia Seeks Oil Price Boost

BK1304101893 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0800 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Malaysia wants oil producers to cut production to boost oil prices to offset the effects of anticipated Western energy taxes, its minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Syed Hamid Albar, told reporters in Oman the issue would be discussed in Muscat today by oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, and independent producers.

He said there was a need to cut output to push prices to an acceptable level as they are related to development needs, which could be affected by the proposed energy taxes.

He said Malaysia would not reduce its production further as the country had already adjusted its production to 630,000 barrels per day.

At least 24 oil ministers and delegation from OPEC and independent producers will attend the meeting to discuss the energy taxes proposed by the United States and the European Community.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Officials Meet at End of SAARC Conference

Leaders View Issues

BK1004120993 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh called on President Premadasa at the Sheraton Hotel [in Dhaka] yesterday and discussed the future programs of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] region. Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma is due to make a visit to Sri Lanka this year. The discussions also centered on those engaged in fishing in the territorial waters of the two countries.

Later, the president went to the office of the Bangladesh prime minister and met Begum Khaleda Zia. They discussed the future programs of SAARC and held bilateral talks according to official sources. [passage omitted]

The Maldivian president, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, called on the president at the Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Prime Minister of Nepal G.P. Koirala had discussions at Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka yesterday on matters pertaining to mutual interest and regional issues. They explored the possibility of commencement of a special air service between Sri Lanka and Nepal. President Ranasinghe Premadasa said that present flight between Colombo and New Delhi twice a week could be extended to Kathmandu. He added that it will help to promote the process of combining SAARC capitals, and pilgrims to Lumpini will be greatly benefited. The prime minister of Nepal pledged full support of his government and agreed to implement it immediately. President Premadasa said that Sri Lankans visiting Nepal should be exempted from visa requirements since Nepalese visiting Sri Lanka enjoy the same facility. Mr. Koirala agreed to act on it and said that the Government of Nepal has already selected the site to inaugurate a housing project in Lumpini fulfilling a pledge made by President Ranasinghe Premadasa during his visit to Nepal in October last year. The president said that the team engaged in the construction of 100 houses in Buddha Gaya would be entrusted with the work of the Lumpini housing project shortly. The two leaders discussed the Sri Lanka's poverty alleviation program and proposal on poverty alleviation that is to be presented to the SAARC summit.

India's Rao Meets With Leaders

BK1104092093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister devoted the whole forenoon today in meeting heads of state and government of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries, except Pakistan, and discussed matters of bilateral interest in Dhaka. Mr. Narasimha Rao called on the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, and Nepalese Prime Minister Dr. Koirala this morning. Later, the prime minister also held talks with the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa; President of Maldives, Mr. Gayoom; and the Bhutanese, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk. Our special correspondent Vivekananda Ray reports that the talks lasted for about two hours and there were no aides.

An official spokesman said a meeting between Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Nawaz Sharif is still not ruled out.

Earlier in the morning, the prime minister laid a wreath on the mazar [tomb] of former Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman.

Bangladesh's Premadasa Holds Meetings

BK1104122093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—reaches a milestone in economic cooperation today. The SAARC leaders were scheduled to sign in Dhaka this afternoon the first regional preferential trade arrangement, SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement]. Doubts were expressed earlier on the possibility of endorsing this arrangement at the current summit. But, President Ranasinghe Premadasa succeeded in convincing all the leaders assembled on the urgency of this trade arrangement. According to our special correspondent, the president was able to achieve this important breakthrough, when the leaders retreated for a cruise on the steamer Ostrich on river Meghna. Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry officials described the agreement as a triumph for Sri Lanka. It may be recalled that it was on board this steamer that the SAARC charter was signed in 1985. Almost all Bangladesh newspapers gave prominence to the speech by President Ranasinghe Premadasa at the current summit. Our correspondent also referred to the praise heaped on the president by politicians, diplomats, and the ordinary people in Bangladesh.

The president met Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, in Dhaka this morning for talks on regional cooperation and bilateral relations. The importation of yarn and [words indistinct] to service the readymade garment industry in the island also figured in the talks. The two leaders also focussed on the reduction of duty on commodities exported from Sri Lanka to Pakistan. The director general of the UN Affairs at the Foreign Ministry in Colombo, Nihal Rodrigo, said that the Pakistani prime minister agreed to take measures in this regard. Bilateral trade in fruits also came up for discussion. The leaders of Sri Lanka and Pakistan also agreed to elevate the joint official-level economic cooperation committee to ministrial level. The ministerial-level committee is scheduled to hold meetings between May and June this year. President Premadasa commended the

efforts by Pakistani archaeologists to preserve Buddhist ruins in that country and expressed thanks for giving an opportunity for Sri Lankan archaeologists to carry out excavations there. Later, on a request by the Sri Lankan president, the seven SAARC leaders visited the mausoleum of the late Bangladesh president Ziaur Rahman and paid a floral tribute. The late Ziaur Rahman, who was the president of Bangladesh from 1977-81, was a pioneer of SAARC.

The president met the King of Bhutan, Jigme Wangchuk, at Hotel Sheraton later in the morning. Their discussions centered on bilateral cooperation and a strong SAARC. The Bhutan King commended the president on the progress achieved by SAARC during his chairmanship and added that the association broke new ground last year.

The president then met Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. Their discussions centered on the activities of SAARC and regional cooperation. The president handed over to the Indian prime minister a brick with the seal of Emperor Dharma Asoka [ancient Indian King] found during excavation near the Jethvanarava stupa in Anuradhapura. The finding indicated that King Mahasen had obtained Indian assistance in the construction of this stupa. In this context, president Premadasa said that they sought Indian cooperation in the (?construction) of the historic monument and handed over a letter in this regard to Mr. Rao [as heard].

Bangladesh's Sharif Talks With Rao

BK1104141893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] In Dhaka, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and his Indian counterpart, Mr. Narasimha Rao, held talks today. The two prime ministers agreed to arrest the declining relations between the two countries. They also reaffirmed the desire to seek mutual understanding and improvement in relations. They agreed that in future the two governments would examine measures toward achieving this objective. The meeting was held in a friendly and cordial manner. Both of them discussed major issues between India and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif referred to the worsening human rights situation in Kashmir and Indian propaganda against Pakistan. The prime minister expressed shock at the statement accusing Pakistani agencies over the Bombay blasts. He stated that even when Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi were assassinated, accusations were leveled against Pakistan.

The two prime ministers were assisted by their respective foreign ministers during the talks. They agreed to exchange information on the Bombay incident at the government level. High-level talks in this connection will be held in India and Pakistan very shortly. The prime minister assured Mr. Rao that Pakistani agencies were on full alert to track down the culprits of the Bombay blasts in case they were on Pakistani territory. The prime minister stated that there was a need to engage in discussion to remove doubts and suspicion between the two countries. The two prime ministers reaffirmed their desire to seek mutual understanding on important issues.

Delhi Details End of Meeting

BK1104160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Dhaka has ended, adopting a declaration renewing the pledge to further strengthen mutual economic cooperation. The Dhaka declaration seeks to remove trade barriers in the region by signing the [South Asian] Preferential Trade Agreement—SAPTA. The adoption of the declaration and the signing of the SAPTA brought the curtains down on the two-day summit of the heads of state and government from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives. At the conclusion of the summit this afternoon, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that the future of the SAARC is in the safe hands of Begum Khaleda Zia, the new chairperson. Earlier, in a speech on the concluding session, the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, said that Dhaka summit has helped in consolidating joint efforts of the member countries to improve the lot of the common people. She said the signing of the Dhaka declaration itself proves that SAARC is set to move forward and generate new activities.

Our Dhaka correspondent Shankardas Gupta reports that the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, had a 35-minute meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, this afternoon. The one-to-one talks were held at the venue of the summit before the concluding session. The prime minister met other heads of state and government of SAARC countries in the morning today.

Leaders Comment Before Departing

BK1204163293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has expressed his confidence that the agreements reached in Dhaka will be implemented before the next SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. Talking to newsmen at the airport before his departure for home at the end of the seventh SAARC summit, President Premadasa said the SAARC leaders together took up a regional working program to eradicate poverty from South Asia. They have specifically stated that the national-level plan to improve the condition of the poor people be drawn up by each member state [words indistinct]. The plan to give the [words indistinct] with open economy and structural adjustment [word indistinct]. Under the umbrella, the agreement for South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement signed in Dhaka yesterday, President Premadasa [words indistinct] they hope that all necessary steps will be taken to evolve trade preferences among the member countries. The Dhaka Declaration, he said, not only expresses policies but also

indicates the necessary follow-up action. [Passage indistinct] He stressed the need to strengthen democracy and said the people form the foundation of democracy. Unless the foundation is strengthened, the structure will not [words indistinct]. Praising the role of the new SAARC chairperson, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the Sri Lankan leader expressed the hope that she would rise fully to the occasion. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman saw him off at the airport. Sri Lankan high commissioner to Bangladesh, Dr. (A. Hanifa), was present.

Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala left Dhaka this afternoon for home after the seventh SAARC summit. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Koirala described the SAARC summit as a grand success. He expressed satisfaction over the measures embodied in the Dhaka Declaration for economic development to eradicate poverty from the region.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan left Dhaka today after attending the seventh SAARC summit. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said there is no doubt that the seventh SAARC summit was a great success. He lauded the efforts of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for successful arrangement for the SAARC summit.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia made courtesy calls on Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuk and Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala separately in Dhaka today. The three SAARC leaders congratulated Begum Zia for becoming the SAARC chairperson. They highly praised Bangladesh for successfully holding the SAARC summit. The three SAARC leaders expressed the hope that the regional cooperation and assistance would go further under the umbrella of SAARC and the able guidance of Begum Zia. They assured all-out cooperation of their respective countries in further strengthening the SAARC.

Algeria

Kidnapped Official Found Assassinated 12 Apr

LD1204225293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The body of the deputy executive [word indistinct] of Oued Smar municipality was found this afternoon.

The security source which today announced the news pointed out that the victim was found on the side of the road which runs parallel to the fence of Bab Ezzouar University; he had been killed by four shots in the body.

The victim was kidnapped last Saturday from his home at El Manzar El Djamil quarter in El Harrach by three armed persons, one of whom was carrying a radio set. They claimed they were policemen and led him in a police car to an unidentified destination. Today he was found assassinated.

Opposition Parties Condemn Cherif Assassination Attempt

LD1104082593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The assassination bid has given rise to a number of reactions. Culture and Communications Minister Habib Chaouki Hamraoui has condemned the assassination attempt as not only against the leader of an opposition party, but also against an intellectual, pointing out that differences of opinion, however great they may be, cannot justify such a crime. The National Liberation Front has also issued a statement on the assassination bid on Hachemi Cherif, asserting the need to avoid violence and threats as a means for political action, and condemning unrestrained language which prepares the ground for violence and prepares people to accept it.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy also notes in a statement that the lovers of reconciliation, who, by their attitude determine victims, are the real backers of the forces of backwardness. Hamas Movement has on its part condemned the assassination bid on Hachemi Cherif, asserting its rejection for the use of violence as a means for resolving problems facing the country.

HSC's Kafi Meets With Ennahda Delegation

LD1104131393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] At the presidential palace this morning, the Higher State Council [HSC], headed by its chairman Ali Kafi, received a delegation of the Ennahda Islamic Movement, headed by its leader Abdallah Djaballah.

The meeting comes within the context of the dialogue conducted by the HSC with political parties, the national societies, and personalities.

Ennahda is the fourth political party to be received by the HSC within the context of the national dialogue. The first three were the National Liberation Front, HAMAS movement, and the Culture and Democracy Rally.

Ennahda Chairman Comments

LD1204085493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Ennahda Chairman Cheikh Abdallah Jaballah, after being received by the Higher State Council [HSC], headed by HSC chairman Ali Kafi, today held a news conference at the headquarters of the movement. The important points he talked about were recorded by correspondent Aicha Dhaghar:

[Begin Jaballah recording] The meeting with the HSC generally was earnest, honest, objective, frank and comprehensive. As well as the points defined by the HSC, the movement raised the following points:

1. How to return to the exercise of basic liberties, primarily the freedom of political activity, Islamic call and charity activity.
2. Setting the dates for the return to legitimacy precisely and clearly.
3. The security situation and the way it is implemented.
4. The economic and social situation.
5. The media situation.
6. The education situation.
7. The constants of Algerian society.
8. The rights of individuals and their general freedom.
9. The nature of the Algerian state.
10. The bases of the political system for Algerian society.

The movement clearly expressed its views on all these matters and presented a memorandum explaining these views. [passage omitted]: The movement received acceptance and great response concerning its views on these points from the HSC. [end recording]

Answering a question about the discussion between the Ennahda Movement and the HSC on the security situation, Cheikh Jaballah said:

[Begin Jaballah recording] The two sides confirmed that the issue of providing total security for individuals and institutions is necessary for the sake of the safety of the state and the freedom and the safety of political, economic, social and cultural life. A number of measures were proposed which are believed to be warranted for tackling the situation—among them the release of political detainees and others should be referred to the normal course of justice. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Reportage on Yasir 'Arafat Visit, Talks

'Arafat Arrives 12 Apr

NC1204174093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on a visit, during which he will discuss developments in the deportees issue and the outcome of President Mubarak's recent talks in Europe and the United States.

'Arafat was received by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

Peace Process Discussed

NC1204190393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat this evening. 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today.

During the meeting they discussed developments in the Middle East and efforts to advance the peace process. Musa explained the outcome of President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States and certain European countries to boost the peace process and overcome the obstacles to resuming the peace talks.

Meets Mubarak

NC1304103593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1013 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak conferred with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at noon today in the president's office in Heliopolis.

Israeli Envoy Views Mubarak-Rabin 'Summit'

NC1304061593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador to Egypt David Sultan arrived in Cairo this evening from a visit to Israel of several days. In an arrival statement, he said he and Israeli officials discussed several topics including preparations for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Egypt scheduled to begin on Wednesday. He said the summit meeting between Mubarak and Rabin is expected to convene in Sharm al-Shaykh, Ismailia, or Alexandria. He said the meeting will give both parties the opportunity to reach further understanding and to discuss ways to stimulate the peace process and bilateral ties.

Asked about reports that a tripartite summit may be held among Mubarak, Rabin, and 'Arafat while they are in Cairo, Sultan said this is out of the question and that no such preparations were made.

On the Israeli position on the Palestinian deportees, Sultan said an agreement was reached between Rabin and the U.S. secretary of state to reduce the deportation period and take back 101 of them immediately. Moves will be made to shorten the deportation period after the Palestinian party agrees to participate in the peace talks scheduled to convene in Washington on 20 April.

On the Israeli position on Jerusalem following agreement that Faysal al-Husayni participate in the peace talks as head of the Palestinian delegation, Sultan said acceptance of al-Husayni's participation has not been officially announced. Should this happen, it would not mean that Jerusalem will be placed on the agenda of the talks, because proposed is discussion of self-rule, not Jerusalem.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Terrorism

NC1304073593 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 9 Apr 93 pp 56-57

[Interview with Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Sana' al-Sa'id, in his office on 6 April]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has said that you sent someone to advise him not to return to Egypt.

[Musa] This is not true. Why should I send him a delegate? He is not my friend. This is nonsense.

[Al-Sa'id] It is said that Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli [fugitive sentenced to death in Afghanistan returnees case] is staying in Jalalabad. Have you requested his extradition?

[Musa] Shawqi al-Islambuli is wanted. If there is an extradition agreement between us and Pakistan, we will request his extradition.

[Al-Sa'id] The Pakistani interior minister will come to Egypt soon. What specifically will you request from Pakistan?

[Musa] President Mubarak met with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his visit to Germany. He requested that officials of both countries sit together to study the situation. When the president returns to Egypt safely, we will know his full assessment of what was agreed and we will receive his directives in this light.

[Al-Sa'id] What will you ask of Pakistan specifically?

[Musa] When we requested that Pakistan hand over the Egyptians staying there, the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo said that they did not know their names exactly, because the Egyptians use nicknames like Abu-Mahmud, Abu-Nadir, and Abu-'Adil.

[Al-Sa'id] Many infiltrate into Egypt via Libya. I wonder why you excuse Libya's involvement.

[Musa] We cannot be unjust to the Libyan authorities. It is still a possibility that the Libyan authorities are not aware of the nationalities of these infiltrators. When we

agreed to reopen the borders, we were careful to secure ourselves on the border with Libya and other neighbors. Besides, we cooperate and coordinate with the Libyan security agencies. It is in our interest to protect the borders against terrorists and narcotics.

It has been proven that defendants involved in two organizations had infiltrated from Libya. One of the two organizations was tried before a military court and eight of the defendants were sentenced to death. They had tried to enter the country from Sudan. Failing that, they entered via Libya. They confessed to this.

[Al-Sa'id] How many persons are detained in prison right now?

[Musa] Three hundred and fifty are held in connection with criminal offenses, and 760 political prisoners were imprisoned after recent incidents. About 700 others are held by the prosecution pending investigation.

[Al-Sa'id] Who is behind the terrorist operations against tourists in Egypt?

[Musa] There are two organizations; the first was tried before a military court and its members were sentenced and the other was recently apprehended. Both organizations might have gained experience in assembling time bombs and highly explosive charges from them [not further identified]. It is clear that the detonation process has undergone development. When they started in Imbabah, they began with locally made explosive charges like Molotov cocktails, which they call contellas, using flammable material like gasoline or kerosene. The charges that cause a loud explosion are more advanced, like the one they put under the bus in al-Tahrir Square. The other bomb used in al-'Atabah Square used the highly explosive TNT. This development might have been supervised by well- trained boys. Not everybody can assemble battery-operated or time bombs.

[Al-Sa'id] But it has not been proven that they came from Peshawar?

[Musa] To prove that, they will have to confess.

[Al-Sa'id] Have they confessed?

[Musa] None of them have confessed to that. We are only talking about the type of bomb; it is sophisticated and not local. The assembly may be done here, but the training takes place abroad. Nothing precludes the possibility that the training was in Peshawar, Iraq [as published], or Sudan.

[Al-Sa'id] Why Iran and Sudan, since it has not been irrefutably proven that they are involved? Other countries may be involved.

[Musa] What countries?

[Al-Sa'id] Saudi Arabia. It is said that Egypt is embarrassed to talk about them for fear that this might affect our strong relations with them.

[Musa] This is not true. Saudi Arabia has nothing to do with this. Saudi Arabia has suffered from the same problem. There is no embarrassment. When the Saudis refused to condemn terrorism, I asked if they had forgotten what happened to them in 1979. A man who raises a wolf will be eaten by that wolf. They immediately condemned and denounced terrorism. As for Sudan and Iran, they both admitted that they are involved.

[Al-Sa'id] Sudan denied having training camps.

[Musa] The camp is a farm that houses a number of youths. It is usually located in remote areas.

[Al-Sa'id] Can we say that there is a 100-percent exchange of information between the Egyptian and American security agencies?

[Musa] How do you determine the ratio? There certainly is an understanding among the security agencies.

[Al-Sa'id] Why did you hand over Mahmud Abu-Halimah to the United States?

[Musa] We did not hand anyone over. The prime minister has explained the matter in his statement to the People's Assembly. Mahmud Abu-Halimah entered Egypt as a German national. He went to our consulate in Jeddah and obtained an entry visa as a German national. His four children entered Egypt with U.S. passports.

[Al-Sa'id] But Abu-Halimah does not have U.S. citizenship; the United States did not say that he does.

[Musa] He has U.S. citizenship and a green card, in addition to a German travel document. Moreover, he asked to hand himself over to the American authorities. At the beginning, he requested entry as a German, while his citizenship is American. His interests are in America, where he lives. He did not renew his [Egyptian] passport and did not enter the country with it. If he had an old passport, he could have renewed it. When he was summoned, he said that he wanted to go to the United States. The United States had already sent an FBI team to Egypt.

[Al-Sa'id] Have you requested the extradition of 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman once again?

[Musa] No, we have not. He is being retried. It is up to the court to demand his presence. If he comes, he will be welcome because he is Egyptian.

[Al-Sa'id] This is the 11th issue of the Islamic Group magazine, published in March 1993. This means that they are secure and do not feel that they are being pursued by the security agencies.

[Musa] This is not a magazine or a mere piece of paper; this is a leaflet. We seized a large number of similar leaflets. Crime is what catches our attention. We do not want religion to be used or abused. If they call for God, this call should not involve killing, theft, looting, or

bombings. However, if they commit illegal acts and violate the law, we have to pursue them and stand up to them.

[Al-Sa'id] They have threatened to strike at investment installations. Have you secured these installations?

[Musa] Thank God, everything has been secured.

[Al-Sa'id] Have you taken the necessary precautionary measures at the border?

[Musa] All concerned services, not only the police, are involved in protecting the borders. Thank God, we are satisfied with our performance.

[Al-Sa'id] It is being said that the Army, not the police, is taking care of security in Imbabah. Is this true?

[Musa] Why do we need the Army? The police are doing the job in full.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you look at the Labor Party with suspicion and consider it in league with the terrorists? Are there indications the party is involved in terrorism?

[Musa] The Labor Party is a failure. Is there any clearer indication of its involvement or noninvolvement than what it says in its newspaper?

[Al-Sa'id] Are you saying the party is involved in terrorism?

[Musa] Read what they publish and judge for yourself.

[Al-Sa'id] After your recent statement in the Consultative Council, the Muslim Brotherhood has condemned terrorism. Are you satisfied?

[Musa] It was imperative for them to express their opinion and explain their position. They claim they are patriots and love their country, and that Islam calls for good counsel. It was essential for them to tell us whether they support or oppose the terrorists. This they did, and a group of them, including Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, came to see me in my office.

[Al-Sa'id] In your statement to the Consultative Council, you hinted that all quarters must cooperate with security, that other establishments must also shoulder the responsibility of security.

[Musa] Not all the burden must be borne by the security forces. The police are supposed to be the last to intervene. They intervene when the crime is committed. It is true that the security forces must play a role in curbing and preventing crime, but the problem is not totally one of security. It becomes so when a crime, such as bombing, theft, or murder, has already been committed. Thank God, we have always managed to capture the culprits. But before the intervention of the security forces, other institutions—such as those involved in dialogue and enlightenment, political parties and organizations, youth and sport clubs, media and educational establishments—have a role to play.

[Al-Sa'id] Some say that you are blaming foreign countries just to cover the actual domestic cause of terrorism.

[Musa] We have no problems. It is they who want to undermine the economy. But praise be to God, the IMF and the World Bank have testified that we are moving on the right track. But these terrorists wanted to attack tourism and the economy. I wonder if this has anything to do with patriotism.

[Al-Sa'id] Is there any conclusive proof that the two officers who have recently been pensioned off had a relationship with Lusi Artin [An Armenian Egyptian woman whose case of bribing officials to influence a court ruling is being investigated]?

[Musa] Hilmi al-Fiqi completed seven years and requested that he be relieved of the post; the same applies to Fadi al-Habashi. Their retirement is not linked to any other event. They asked for retirement.

[Al-Sa'id] Have you arrested four young Americans in connection with the bombing of the Wadi al-Nil Cafe [in Cairo]?

[Musa] No, this did not happen.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Americans who were arrested for missionary work?

[Musa] We have informed the American authorities. We sent the suspects to the prosecution, which ordered their detention.

[Al-Sa'id] You mean they have not been released?

[Musa] Why should we release them? If we arrest suspect Egyptians, how can we release these people? Are they "super" human beings? The prosecution ordered their detention for 15 days, and then for 45 days.

[Al-Sa'id] I wonder why one of the battles in Asyut lasted for nine hours.

[Musa] Four, not nine. We did not want to endanger citizens' lives, especially since the young men sought shelter in a house and continued to fire at police. We wanted to protect lives. It does not make us happy when innocent people get hurt; we are not killers or lovers of violence. We even try our best not to hurt those who confront us; they are citizens and it is our job to protect them, and to catch them alive, not dead or injured.

Tehran Reports 21 'Revolutionaries' Held

NC1204181493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Egyptian security forces raided the homes of Muslim revolutionaries al-Qalubiyah this morning and arrested 21 of them. A regime security official confirmed the report and claimed that the detainees are members of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group]. A quantity of arms and anti-regime literature was found in their possession.

Cairo police announced that they defused five bombs placed close to a tourist bus near Salah-al-Din Mosque in central Cairo this morning.

The situation was tense today in Abu-Tij, Asyut Governorate, where the deputy police chief of the regime's security agency was killed and security and police forces stormed homes and arrested scores of Muslims.

Murder Trial Postponed Until 2 May

NC1204183193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Emergency Court today decided to defer hearing the case regarding the assassination of Dr. Faraj Fudah until 2 May, keeping the defendants in custody pending further investigation.

The court was conducting its first hearing in the trial of 13 defendants. Eight of them are in custody, three are at large, and two have been released on bail.

At the beginning of the hearing, the court registered the presence of the 15-man defense panel. The defendants pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to murder Dr. Fudsah; attempted murder of three others; possession of arms and ammunition; and possesssion of forged official stamps and documents.

Libya

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 9 Apr

LD0904223093 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Brother 'Arafat was greeted upon arrival by brothers the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat

LD1004130893 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who briefed him on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, particularly with regard to the question of the Palestinian deportees.

The brother leader of the revolution also received Dr. Usama al- Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of the president's office in charge of political affairs, who has been charged by President Husni Mubarak with informing the brother leader of the revolution about the results of President Mubarak's visit to Germany, Britain, the United States, and France.

Demonstrations Staged Against UN Sanctions

LD1004162593 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Demonstrations of anger were staged today throughout the Great Jamahiriyah in protest against the UN Security Council's decision to extend the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the absurd Resolution 748. Tens of thousands of angry masses have gathered spontaneously since the early hours of morning outside the UN office and the Belgian, French, Italian, Chinese, Pakistani, Japanese, Hungarian, Spanish, Venezuelan, Moroccan, and Russian embassies [in Tripoli]. At this mass demonstration of anger, the participants handed the following statement to the UN office and to the embassies:

The embargo has been extended for the third time against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah with UN Security Council Resolution 71 issued on 8 April 1993. What we the masses of the communes were expecting was a lifting of the embargo imposed on us by the UN Security Council with Resolution 748 and not its retention. Moreover, the peace-loving forces, the nongovernmental organizations, the human rights committees, and local and international experts in international law condemned on several occasions the illegality of the embargo resolution and the pretexts this was based on. These forces were expecting [the UN Security Council] to respond favorably to the efforts made regionally and internationally to solve the problem within the framework of the rules of international law and the respect of sovereignty.

By demonstrating its willingness to cooperate, the Great Jamahiriyah has shown civilized behavior which was praised and valued by the peace-loving states, bodies, organizations, and forces throughout the world. The Jamahiriyah made numerous efforts to cooperate with the UN Security Council by putting forward practical proposals that would facilitate unravelling the problem. The most outstanding of these proposals was to question and try [the two Libyan suspects] in a neutral country and facilitate the task of the examining magistrates from the states concerned or hand over the suspects to a neutral country with guarantees of a fair trial.

Yet the Jamahiriyah finds itself again faced with an unjust resolution which reflects the fanatical racial tendency of those who control the UN Security Council and which they use to deal with the Arabs with double-standards and with the Israelis with another standard: for the Arabs there is the embargo, the blockade, and the threat of aggression; for the Israelis there is the language of connivance, conciliation, and understanding to such an extent that the right of veto is used against any resolution condemning the Israelis even when the latter

are carrying out aggressions, violating the UN Charter, and are refusing to implement UN resolutions.

By adopting this double-standard policy and by interpreting the UN Charter and corrupting it more than adhering to its neutrality and objectivity, the UN Security Council has confirmed a number of facts, foremost that the UN Security Council is being used as a tool to serve the goals of hostile policies harbored by some members of the Council towards people, particularly the people of the Great Jamahiriyah. The UN Security Council's stands are characterized by the same vehemence and escalation in confronting the Arabs as the racism and prejudice against them which are reflected in its resolutions. The UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 799 issued against the Zionist entity, makes the existence of this entity above the law and above the sanctions. Furthermore, those who gang up against the Arabs and who are prejudiced against them are using the Security Council as a tool to protect this entity whose task it is to execute part of their strategic goals aimed at destroying the Arabs in the name of the United Nations.

The Jamahiriyah as a state is innocent of the charge [resulting from] the crash [suqut] of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, in Scotland. Convinced of its innocence, it cooperated with sincerity, an open heart, and a feeling of responsibility with the UN Security Council resolutions and endeavored to provide the means of finding the truth and guaranteeing a fair trial for its citizens. This stand by the Jamahiriyah does not differ from the stand of any state which respects its sovereignty. With regard to what is applicable to any other state in this field the Jamahiriyah has the right to stick to this stand and such is the simplest rule of equality between the states concerning the principle of sovereignty as a reality which governs relations between the states.

The Jamahiriyah cannot hand over its citizens to states with which it has no treaty of extradition or exchange of defendants. Neither can it take a measure which is not allowed by its laws. But it has not closed the door to initiatives which do not run counter to its national sovereignty and its legal system and laws.

Those who control the Security Council do not want to accept this in order to cover up for the weakness of their legal position. The imposition of an unjust blockade on the people of the Great Jamahiriyah destroys its development efforts as a result of shortages in equipment and spare parts. It also constitutes a blatant violation of the right to development which the UN has defined as one of the human rights. Moreover, the shortages in medicine and effective treatment faced by Libyan citizens and citizens from other countries as a result of the embargo resolution constitute one of the [word indistinct] manifestations of human rights violations which those who control the Security Council and who defend it [word indistinct]. With its successive resolutions imposing the continuation of the embargo on the people of the Great Jamahiriyah, the Security Council is creating a dangerous precedent since it is subjecting a common law case to the authority of the Security Council with an arbitrary and unjust interpretation of the UN Charter. This interpretation is very remote from the spirit of legitimacy and the law.

Moreover, the Security Council is subjecting this case to Chapter 7 as if the Jamahiriyah carried out an aggression against the territories of another state and annexed it by force, as the Zionist entity has done. But the difference is that the terms of Chapter 7 are applied only to the Jamahiriyah while the UN Security Council remains dead silent when the Zionist entity occupies Jerusalem, the Golan [Heights], the West Bank, and southern Lebanon, carries out the physical liquidation of an entire people, deports hundreds of Palestinian nationals away from their homes and families, and refuses to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. Thus, with this silence the Security Council is turning the Zionist entity into an entity above the law to which sanctions do not apply.

The greatest danger facing the small peace-loving people is the dangerous role played by the United Nations at this stage of the organization's history, particularly the role played by the Security Council which has become like a dominant minority government which makes its resolutions on the basis of criteria of segregation and fanatical inclinations. With these criteria the Security Council is (?starting) one of the worst periods in the history of relations between the people, the nations, and the United Nations. Unless the United Nations becomes an international framework which reflects the human, political, civilizational, and cultural diversity of the people of Earth and so long as this organization remains an obedient tool in the hands of the Security Council, which has itself become an instrument in the hands of those who have resources of power, the people and the nation members of the United Nations are entitled to announce their withdrawal from this organization because they can see this organization only as a tool used to dominate them through the Security Council.

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses in the communes, which have the authority, affirm that the mechanism of decisionmaking and its instrument lay directly with the people and that there is no conventional authority in the Jamahiri system on which pressures can be brought to bear to force the masses of the Congresses to give in to demands or orders coming from foreign states or international bodies for this would be an infringement or a violation of the national sovereignty of the masses.

Angry Protests Continue

LD1204144393 Tripoli JANA in English 1411 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Angry demonstrations continued yesterday for the second consecutive day throughout the

Great Jamahiriyah in protest at the renewal by the U.N Security Council of the arbitrary coercive measures against the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the invalid Resolution 748.

The angry popular masses carried green flags and pictures of the leader of the revolution chanting for the long life of the great al-Fatih revolution and its leader. They reaffirmed their constant readiness to defend the civilisational gains and social options of the great al-Fatih revolution.

The masses stressed in their chanting that the arbitrary resolution showed the racist tendency of the members which control the Security Council. They stressed the illegality of the measures and their justification as the Security Council ignored all efforts exerted towards finding a solution to the crisis within the context of international law, conventions and customs.

The angry popular masses sent a message to the leader of the revolution in which they condemned the renewal of the arbitrary coercive measures and asserted their constant readiness to propagate the green Jamahiriy ideas and defend the colossal civilisational achievements realised by the Libyan Arab people within the last quarter century thanks to the great al-Fatih revolution.

Paper Blasts UN Resolution, Extended Sanctions

LD1004151993 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli al-Tayr [April] 10 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH which is published by the general press corporation in the Great Jamahiriyah, confirmed that the secretary general of the United Nations does not have the courage to concede defeat in the implementation of Resolution 799 against the Zionists.

Under the title "International Legitimacy Goes on Bleeding" the paper said that despite assertions by the U.N. secretary general concerning the urgency of implementing that resolution, the United Nations and the Security Council did not take any measure to deter the Zionists from their non-compliance attitudes. At the same time the Security Council boasts vis-a-vis the Great Jamahiriyah and announces that it has to implement literally its resolutions in accordance with the Western vision. The Security Council has over- rode the fact that its resolution did not specify or indicate in any way to the principle of handing-over or surrender.

The United Nations announced clearly in this way that the saga of suffering by the Arab Libyan people is to go on and on, through the extension of the sanctions for a further term. Accordingly it asserts its double standard policy in the region. It confirms that smaller or lesser states have to seek another refuge, another alternative organisation as the U.N. has been transformed into an instrument of aggression and repression against the lesser nations.

The paper concluded its article by saying that we have to re- consider very carefully how to get rid of this dilemma. It is a dilemma partly created by ourselves as we were disillusioned and created a trap for ourselves, in the form of the United Nations.

Mauritania

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

AB1004130093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Redha Malek, the Algerian foreign minister arrives this morning in Nouakchott for a working visit to Mauritania. In a statement to the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the Algerian foreign minister said his visit falls within the framework of the consultations between the two countries, notably on the situation prevailing in the region. He added that he was to convey the greetings and consideration of the Algerian people and authorities to the people and authorities of Mauritania.

Mr. Malek was welcomed by the national defense minister, Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, and Mr. Mohamed Ould Moine, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

President Meets Algerian Minister

AB1104144393 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya received Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and foreign affairs minister of Algeria, at the Presidential Palace this morning. The minister, who began his visit to Mauritania on 9 April, held discussions with the head of state in the presence of Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of defense, acting for the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. After the meeting, Mr. Malek told the press that his discussions with the president were in line with the permanent consultations existing between the two countries on issues of interest for our subregion. He stated that dialogue should be further enhanced to help move forward on the path of progress, security, and stability in the region. The Algerian minister finally expressed satisfaction with the level and quality of bilateral cooperation in various sectors. Efforts are being made, he stressed, toward strengthening and further increasing this cooperation. Minister Redha Malek left Nouakchott early this morning for Algeria after a 24-hour visit. On his departure, he was seen off by Col. Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of defense, acting for foreign and cooperation minister.

Sudan

Gasoline Shortage, Power Cuts Reported in Khartoum

NC1104085193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Apr (MENA)—The weekly quota of gasoline for taxis, private cars, and motorcycles in Khartoum will be stopped as of today due to a critical shortage of gasoline.

A statement issued by the Khartoum municipality said distribution of gasoline for buses and airport taxies will continue as usual.

The Khartoum region is currently suffering a from a grave shortage of gasoline due to a lack of foreign currency. Weekly quotas for vehicles were 2 gallons until this quota was halted today.

The power supply is interrupted daily from 0800 to 1500 throughout Khartoum due to the fuel shortage.

Commentary on Mubarak's Trips, Policy

EA1104063693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The Egyptian president returned to his country after about a week which he spent moving between the major capitals of the West. He is now preparing himself to meet the president of the Zionist entity in Cairo in the coming days to discuss how to resume the discussions between the Arabs and Israel according to his talks in Washington, which world news agencies described as not having achieved the required success. [passage omitted]

Observers have ascribed the failure of Mubarak's visit to several factors, the most prominent of which is that the man no longer holds the reins of power to a degree that calls for reassurance. For the task of searching for a suitable alternative is among matters that preoccupy the West at present, and especially the United States. Then, President Mubarak has been proving every day that he is not a stageman [marhalah] at all, for he lacks the simplest components of leadership. That is clearly shown many times in view of statements he releases that cause mockery and fun-making and demonstrate ignorance of the simplest elementary facts of the science of politics and the administration of people.

As for the information organs of the Egyptian president, they are aghast, and do not know what to say to the people except that Mubarak is the first Arab president to meet President Clinton. Then he is the first one to visit France after the formation of its new government. The information organs of the haunted president forgot to tell the Egyptians and the rest of the Arab and Islamic peoples that Mubarak is the first Arab president who divulges information to the American intelligence to help close mosques in American cities. He is the first Arab president who strives for the dissension, disunity, and dispersion of Arabs. He is the first Egyptian president who directs the muzzles of the guns of his Army towards Sudan and, in addition, he occupies a dear part of its territory.

In spite of that, the man returned to his country dragging the consequences of disappointment and failure. He returned to his country while the smell of gunpowder there is still causing colds, and the sound of bombs is everywhere. The question remains: How much longer will Mubarak stand firm against the blows of the revolutionaries in Egypt; when will Cairo be conquered? This will be answered some time, and, God willing, soon. Honor and victory to the people of the Nile Valley in Egypt and Sudan, and shame and disgrace to the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

Tunisia

Al-Baz on U.S. Position, Messages to 'Arafat, Ben Ali

NC0904172793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, 9 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that the message he delivered to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today deals with the peace process and efforts to resume the peace negotiations on 20 April with a view toward making tangible progress soon.

He told a MENA correspondent in Tunis today: We believe the negotiations have dragged for a long time without a positive result, which harms the talks and the entire peace process.

He said President Mubarak was eager, during his talks in the United States and Europe, to focus on the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in a short time, maintaining that the way to do it is to make genuine progress at the talks and to get the United States to participate in the negotiations as a full partner. He said Egypt supports such a U.S. role and is ready to play an active role to energize the peace process and help it attain tangible results.

Al-Baz said Mubarak's message to Ben Ali also deals with the Lockerbie crisis and the need to avoid further sanctions against fraternal Libya. He said the problem should be solved so that relations between Libya and all world nations—including the United States, Britain, France, and all other European countries—can be stabilized. This is important because we need stability in this region, he said.

Al-Baz underscored the willingness to avoid complications and escalation in this regard.

He said Mubarak's message also deals with the situation of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the need for the whole world to adopt a firmer and stronger position to stop Serbian aggressions against Muslims and Croats and end the persecution of Muslims there.

He said the United States showed great understanding in this regard when Mubarak discussed the issue with Clinton. He said a certain approach for intensifying pressure on the Serbs, whether in Bosnia-Herzegovina or in Serbia itself, has been agreed upon.

Al-Baz said Mubarak's message to the Tunisian president also deals with the situation in the Gulf and the activity of certain non-Arab elements—specifically Iran. This activity, he said, constitutes interference in the internal affairs of certain Arab and Islamic countries under the pretext of supporting Islamic movements. The message, al-Baz added, deals with the position that the states in the region and the rest of the world must take to confront this activity, not out of hostility toward Iran or its people, but out of a sense that this Iranian policy is dangerous.

Al-Baz said the message he delivered to the Palestinian president contains the outcome of President Mubarak's talks during his European and American tour on ways to remove the obstacle of the deportees so as to resume peace negotiations.

He said that the American position toward the peace process has developed positively.

He explained that after Mubarak's visit to the United States, Washington showed more understanding concerning the Lockerbie crisis and the circumstances in the region.

Al-Baz said President Mubarak spoke during his meetings with the American officials about Libya's positive policy within the Arab and African frameworks. Mubarak also stressed the need to boost stability in the region. Such stability, he said, can largely be affected if any dispute between an Arab country and the Western world escalates.

On the Palestinian position toward the next round of the peace negotiations, Dr. al-Baz said that this will be decided by the Palestinian leadership in the next few days. He hoped things will move toward participation in the negotiations.

Yeltsin Envoy Delivers Message to Ben Ali

LD0904154993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin which was handed to him this morning at Carthage Palace by President Yeltsin's personal envoy Boris Kolokolov in the presence of Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya and the Russian ambassador in Tunis. The letter concerns Tunisian- Russian relations.

In his letter, President Boris Yeltsin stressed his country's determination to further bolster amicable relations, since this is traditional between the two countries. He saluted Tunisia's efforts in its capacity as president of the Maghreban Union to consolidate trust and understanding in North Africa and to make the Arab Maghreb a region of peace, stability, and harmony. He stressed that this policy conforms to the interests of the region's states and people, and the international community as a whole. President Yeltsin also expressed his hope that Tunisian-Russian cooperation would remain an important factor in realizing security and peace in the Middle East and the world.

After the meeting, the Russian envoy expressed his great pleasure at the opportunity accorded to him to meet the president and to express the appreciation and respect he had for him. [passage omitted]

He said that the talks also dealt with the crisis between Libya and some Western countries, stressing the identity of views of the two countries regarding current international issues.

New GCC Secretary General Comments on Energy Tax

PM1304114093 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 4 Apr 93 pp1, 32

[Muhammad al-Nashwan report: "Al-Qasimi Tells AL-RIYADH: The Gulf States Will Defend Their Interests Against Energy Tax"]

[Excerpts] Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, the new secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has emphasized that he will do his best to project unified Gulf action in the best possible way and to support and promote Gulf causes at international level.

In an interview with AL-RIYADH, he said that such a great collective venture was bound to face some problems or obstacles which could be overcome through the unified and sound approach of the Gulf leaders and peoples.

He also said that the Gulf states would defend their interests against the energy tax which the Western states plan to impose on their oil imports.

Al-Qasimi added: We have great aspirations derived from the guidance of the leaders and all geared toward joint Gulf action aimed at promoting links and integration among the peoples of the GCC states. [passage omitted]

In his interview with AL-RIYADH, al-Qasimi, discussing the economic and industrial aspects, said that one of the most important points which the GCC's unified economic agreement calls for is the creation of a Gulf common market. He said that other steps must precede this important and daring step, the most important being the promulgation of unified GCC legislation that would be harmonious without any contradictions in order to be able to create a common market. [passage omitted]

On the energy tax which the Western states plan to levy on their oil imports, al-Qasimi said: Europe is considered a major partner of the GCC states with which it has vast common interests. We and the Europeans are trying to further develop these interests.

There are some differences, he added, between the two sides, the most significant of which are the differences over the energy tax to be imposed on oil imports. That matter is of extreme importance to us, he said, because oil is our only significant commodity and anything detrimental to it would undermine the Gulf's economy. He stressed that the GCC officials would seek to play their part in the negotiations with the other side, in defense of our interests. (passage omitted]

In conclusion, the GCC secretary general talked about the issue of the unified Gulf army which, he said, was under study by the GCC leaders and officials. He added that it was agreed that Gulf security was indivisible and that the GCC states were currently jointly endeavoring to build their own intrinsic power. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Iranian 'Infiltrators' Arrested; Search on for More

NC1304101493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0939 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 13 April (MENA)—Kuwaiti security forces arrested five Iranian infiltrators trying to enter the country illegally by sea. A MENA correspondent in Kuwait has learned that extensive campaigns by the Kuwaiti security authorities are under way in various parts of the country to arrest other Iranian infiltrators who entered Kuwait by sea and reached residential areas. Several areas throughout the country are being searched, including (Banid al-Qitr) and Khitan, where four Iranians were arrested on Saturday.

Upcoming Visit by Bush, U.S. Policy Line Welcomed

LD1104142493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Apr (KUNA—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers welcomed once again today the visit which will be paid to Kuwait on Tuesday by former U.S. President George Bush. It also praised his principled and brave stance in rejecting the aggression of the Iraqi regime immediately after it took place.

The Council expressed its full conviction that the United States would continue its principled line which was expressed by President Bill Clinton.

In a statement after its meeting today under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, the Council of Ministers said that Kuwait remembers with all thanks and gratitude the brave stance of the former U.S. President and his firm determination for the right to return to its people, thanks to him, after God and the help of the fraternal and friendly states in the liberation of Kuwait from the claws of the invading forces of occupation.

The statement addS that the Council expressed its full conviction that the United States will continue its principled line, which was expressed by Bill Clinton, and is represented by the commitment with regard to the full implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions concerning the aggression of the Iraqi regime against Kuwait, at the forefront of which is respect for the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, its independence, as well as securing the release of prisoners and detainees in Iraqi jails.

The Council also discussed political matters in light of the latest events and current political developments on the Arab and international arenas.

Secretary Christopher Reasserts Security Commitment

LD1004131893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Apr (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al- Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has received a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, reiterating America's commitment to the security of Kuwait and the Gulf region. The message officially announces that the U.S. secretary of state asserts the U.S. Administration's eagerness to continue bolstering its good relations in the coming years with Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim previously received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Oman

Official Talks Held With Ukrainian Officials

JN1104162993 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpt] A session of official talks was held between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Ukraine at the Qasr al-Bustan Hotel this morning. His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, led the Omani side, while Leonid Kuchma, Ukranian prime minister, led the Ukranian side.

At the outset of the talks, His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id welcomed the Ukranian prime minister's visit to the sultanate, which is the first leg of his Middle East tour. He said: We hope that this visit will yield fruitful results for both countries. His highness pointed out that His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id's reception of the Ukranian prime minister and his delegation as well as his majesty's expressions during that meeting are regarded as the foundation for future relations between the two countries. His highness also pointed to the cordial sentiments which the Ukranian prime minister expressed to his majesty. These sentiments will contribute to the promotion of bilateral relations, he said. The deputy prime minister for legal affairs added: We hope that these relations will include all areas of economic, technical, and cultural cooperation. He affirmed that Oman's policy is based on mutual respect and noninterference in others' internal affairs, both of which stem from honest dealings with others. Credible dealing with others is Oman's slogan in its relations with friendly states, he added.

For his part, Ukranian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma thanked His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id for his cordial sentiments. He said: We have the same sentiments, and the Ukranian delegation's visit to the sultanate will promote the cordial relations between the two countries. We hope that our talks today will highlight the areas of cooperation which we need, he added. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian Departs; Communique Issued

JN1204154293 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and his delegation left the country this afternoon after a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman during which he held talks with senior officials on cooperation between the two countries in various fields. The Ukrainian prime minister was seen off at al-Sib International Airport by His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, and a number of cabinet ministers.

A joint statement was issued in Muscat today on Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma's visit to the Sultanate. Following is the text of the joint communique:

His Excellency Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman at the head of a ranking delegation from 10-12 April, 1993. Leading those who received his excellency the Ukrainian guest was His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received at his office in Bayt al-Barakah his excellency the Ukrainian prime minister and the delegation accompanying him. The Ukrainian guest delivered a letter to his majesty from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk dealing with his desire to promote bilateral relations.

During the meeting, they also discussed spheres and ways of promoting Omani-Ukrainian relations and defined possible areas of cooperation between the two friendly countries on the basis of mutual interest and equality. They also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest.

An official round of talks was held between the Omani side, led by His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; and the Ukrainian side, led by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. They discussed ways and possibilities of promoting bilateral cooperation in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields. The two sides agreed on the need to exchange diplomatic representation at the ambassadors level and to sign a memorandum of understanding on spheres of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Ukraine. They also stressed the need to exchange visits between specialists from both public and private sectors. The memorandum of understanding was signed for the Omani Government by the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs and for the Ukrainian Government by the Ukrainian foreign minister at the Omani Foreign Ministry on 12 April 1993.

Within the framework of his visit, his excellency the Ukrainian prime minister and his delegation visited a number of industrial, scientific, historic, and cultural sites in the sultanate. The Ukrainian side praised the sultanate's achievements in economic and social development areas. He also praised the sultanate's positive

foreign relations policies, as well as His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin- Sa'id's wise policy toward the various regional and international issues and his support for peace and stability. His excellency the guest expressed his thanks and appreciation for the hospitality he was accorded, wishing Omani-Ukrainian relations every progress in the interests of both friendly peoples.

[Dated] Monday, 20 Shawwal, 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 12 April 1993

Qatar

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arrives on Visit 12 Apr

JN1204164493 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, April 12 (GNA)—Ukranian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma arrived here today on a two-day visit to Qatar as part of a regional tour.

He was received by Qatari heir apparent and defence minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

The Ukrainian prime minister is accompanied by Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov, the foreign minister Anatoliy Zlenko, the head of State Committee on Oil and Gas Ivan Kovalko and other officials.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Discusses Arab, International Issues

LD1204205393 Riyadh SPA in English 2007 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 12, SPA—Crown Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, chaired the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers here tonight, which reviewed a summary of reports on important Arab and international issues.

Following the meeting, information minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said the council discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and lauded the Security Council resolution to clampdown a flying ban over Bosnia and use of force against Serbian aircraft if they violated the no fly zone there.

The council expressed profound admiration for the brotherly Islamic spirit of Saudi citizens, represented recently in a 10 million dollar donation by Riyadh Province Governor Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to Bosnian Muslim, handed to the Bosnian president on Sunday.

The council also reviewed the developments of the Palestinian question and the peace talks, confirming the continuation of Saudi efforts to serve the Palestinian cause and realize the ambitions of Palestinian brothers in winning their inalienable rights, according to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Al-Sha'ir said Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal briefed the council on the outcome of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministerial meetings and the latest political developments in the region.

The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Mohammad 'Ali al-Fayiz elaborated on the outcome of the Arab Labour Conference held in Amman and praised the positive spirit that prevailed during the meetings.

Reviewing some local administrative issues, the council decided the following:

Approving the start of negotiations between the Ministry of Finance and National Economy with the Chinese side on exchanging messages about exchanging the most-favoured-nation status.

Approving the preparation of a memorandum of understanding on the principles agreed upon by King 'Abd-al-'Aziz City for Science and Technology and the Chinese State Science and Technology Authority, which were included in the letter of the minister of finance and national economy .

Minister al-Zamil Meets Tunisian Delegation

LD1104203993 Riyadh SPA in English 1934 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 11, SPA—Eng. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, the minister of industry and electricity conferred here today with the Tunisian Minister of International Cooperation, Mohamed Ghannouchi and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, Eng. al-Zamil briefed the visiting delegation on the marvelous and prosperous industrial rise being witnessed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the methods adopted by the Kingdom to attract industrial investment.

The talks also dealt with the bilateral cooperation between the two countries in industrial and economic spheres.

The meeting was attended by the Tunisian ambassador to the Kingdom, Kasem Bousnina and the Undersecretary of the Ministry for Industrial Affairs, Eng. Mubarak al-Khafra.

The visiting Tunisian delegation afterwards toured the permanent industrial exhibition set-up at the compound of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity which displays samples of Saudi-made products.

King Fahd, Egypt's Mubarak Hold Telephone Conversation

LD1004194693 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 10, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz contacted by telephone on Saturday the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

During the telephone conversation, King Fahd and President Mubarak reviewed the latest political and security developments in the Arab and international arenas in view of the recent talks held by President Mubarak with leaders of Germany, Britain, U.S.A and France.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Official Meets Amir, Discusses Trade Cooperation

LD1004161793 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 10, IRNA—Chairman of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, 'Ali Naqi Khamushi, held talks today with the Amir of Sharjah Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Salem al-Qasimi on expansion of trade cooperation between Iran and the Persian Gulf Shaykhdom which forms part of the 7-state United Arab Emirates (UAE) Federation.

Later today in Dubai, Khamushi had talks with UAE Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum and head of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce Sa'id Juma al-Nabudah on issues of mutual interest.

Iran last year accounted for 30 percent of the dirhams 6,600 million worth of re-exports from Dubai.

Dubai's re-exports to Iran in 1991 were dirhams 2,900 million.

Romania's President Iliescu on Official Visit

Meets Oil Minister

AU1004202193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1724 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi ROMPRES 10/4/1993—Saturday, 10 April, the President of Romania Ion Iliescu started his official visit to Abu Dhabi by meeting with the minister of oil and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), while the group of experts accompanying the president tackled concrete aspects with their counterparts of the host country's relevant ministries.

At present a number of Romanian companies are developing cooperation projects with the United Arab Emirates, among them being Rompetrol, Energoconstructia, Uzinoexport, Energomontaj, Piperagulf, Arcif, Upetrom, while other Romanian companies (Rafirom, Romelectro, Industrial Export etc) are negotiating cooperation contracts with interested UAE partners.

Iliescu Meets Businessmen

AU1104163893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1444 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Dhabi ROMPRES 11/4/1993—Romania's president, Ion Iliescu, on a visit in the United Arab Emirates now, met, Sunday, April 11, businessmen from the capital, had an interview at the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce of Dubai and paid a visit in the free zone of Jebel. In this way, he could make an evaluation of potential cooperation between the Emirates and Romania.

Two important documents for bilateral actions were prepared and presented to be signed to the ministers of finance of the two countries, namely the Intergovernmental Agreement on Preventing Double Taxation and Tax Evasion and that on Mutual Protection and Promotion of Investments. The two are intended to enhance the cooperation between Romania and the Emirates and encourage investments. Monday, April 12, the Romanian president is going to visit Sharjah.

Concludes Visit, Heads for Damascus

AU1204162193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0915 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi ROMPRES, 12/4/1993—After talks with the leadership of the Sharjah Emirate, President Ion Iliescu concluded on Monday, 12 April, his visit to the United Arab Emirates and headed for Damascus. During brief news conferences held in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, Romania's president assessed his visit as an extremely important moment in the relations between Romania and the United Arab Emirates. Both states have signed agreements on 11 April for the promotion and mutual guarantee of investments, a convention regarding double taxation, and also a commercial agreement.

Later in the day, President Ion Iliescu paid a visit to the Romanian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, attending the signing of a contract between the Petrom Ploiesti company and the company for general service in oil fields of Abu Dhabi regarding the setting up of a joint venture headquartered in Abu Dhabi.

President Ion Iliescu invited the businessmen in the United Arab Emirates to make investments in Romania. In his various meetings with the authorities, with representatives of the financial, banking, and industrial circles from the United Arab Emirates, President Ion Iliescu drew attention on the real possibilities of the entrepreneurs to mutually stimulate themselves to invest their capital and intelligence in profitable businesses. Iliescu reasserted his conviction regarding the real chances for collaboration, especially in oil industry, taking into consideration that the emirates are rich in oil resources, while Romania has a remarkable experience in the extraction field as well as in the manufacturing of processing equipment. Also enumerated as extremely encouraging were the hydro-power, the hydro-melioration, and the civil and industrial construction

fields. Extremely optimistic is the fact that during the past years the number of enterprises from the United Arab Emirates making business with Romania increased, while the interest for Romania of the businessmen in the emirates and that of the Romanian businessmen for the emirates also increased.

President Iliescu insisted on the Romanian realities, presenting the evolution of the country after the [1989 December] revolution. A rich information on economic reforms, on the legal framework, on the general concept regarding the encouragement of foreign investments added to the presentation of political and social events in Romania, and also showed the opening of the Romanian foreign policy, of the proposals regarding international collaboration.

Also convened were immediate measures regarding an increase of production, as well as the encouragement of trade, of banking activities by the existence both in Bucharest and Abu Dhabi of relevant bodies.

A climate of confidence and best intentions exist between Romania and the United Arab Emirates, considered the two heads of state, which the businessmen are welcoming and ready to take advantage of. So, a delegation of Arab enterprises are to come to Romania to study what is to be done in this regard.

OAU Secretary General Arrives on Visit 9 Apr

JN0904180593 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 9 (GNA)—Secretary General of the Organization of the African Unity (OAU) Salim Ahmed Salim arrived here today from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on a two-day visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] as part of a GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council] states tour.

Salim will hold talks with a number of UAE officials on international issues and Afro-Arab cooperation.

Yemen

Salih, al-Bid Meet Defense, Interior Ministry Personnel

JN1204143393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid met with brother members of the Defense Ministry command and the Ministry of Interior and Security command.

The president and vice president were briefed on security measures and arrangements made by the Ministry of Interior and Security in association with the Defense Ministry. These security measures and arrangements are aimed at rendering the legislative elections a success and making sure that they are held amid a secure and calm climate that would allow the citizens to practice their electoral rights amid a free and honest climate.

During the meeting, the president and vice president stressed the need for the bodies of the Ministry of Interior and Defense, in association with the bodies of the Defense Ministry, to carry out their responsibilities toward maintaining public security and providing a suitable climate that would ensure the success and safety of the elections. They emphasized the importance of extra alertness and preparedness as well as collective efforts to achieve this goal and deal with security violators and outlaws.

Premier al-Bid Receives Somalia's Aidid

JN1204144593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas received at noon today General Mohamed Farah Aidid, chairman of the United Somali Congress and Somali National Alliance, and the delegation accompanying him comprised of represenrtatives of four Somali factions.

At the onset of the meeting, the prime minister welcomed Gen. Aidid and the delegation accompanying him, affirming that Yemen and Somalia are two fraternal countries bound by historical bonds and relations which are governed by good neighborliness and mutual interests. The prime minister explained that Yemen is greatly interested in the developments in the Somali arena and the Horn of Africa in view of the historical bonds among the region's people.

He said that Yemen has exerted constant efforts with all the Somali parties to restore unity, security, and peace to Somalia. Al-Bid also said he hopes the Somali brothers will succeed to overcome the crisis, reorganize their ranks, and restore the Somali people's vitality. He affirmed Yemen's readiness to do all that it can to bring about Somali reconciliation and entrench national unity. He said: We look for the day when matters in Somalia will be expeditiously tackled, and that he wishes the Somali people every success.

During the meeting, Gen. Aidid explained the steps that were agreed between all parties in the Somali reconciliation conference held in Addis Ababa in March. He voiced thanks to our country for welcoming the Somali refugees and assisting them, and for our country's support for Somali national unity.

Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, and Ambassador Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Wazir, head of the Africa Department in the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

Kurdish Source Says Security Official Killed

LD1204173993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Patriotic Iraqi Kurdistan radio [Radio Mihani- ye Kordestan] said today that the deputy in charge of Khakurk Province's security organization [sazman-e amniyat] and two of his bodyguards were killed in an attack by an unidentified armed group.

The radio reported that no party or group has so far claimed responsibility for the assassination of the deputy.

Another report from Iraq states that the Iraqi Army is preparing for an extensive attack against its opponents in the southern marshlands. [passage omitted]

Clinton Advised Not To Continue Bush 'Mistake'

JN1204132793 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 12, INA—AL-'IRAQ newspaper for today said that arrogance that marked the era of former U.S. President George Bush had emerged once again through the recent American aggression against Iraq.

The daily added in its editorial that the policy of renouncing the aggression and avoiding personal grudges which President Bill Clinton claimed to have adopted in his first days in office seemed to have gone. But the anti-Iraq policy had remained as a firm line inherited by the new administration.

It said the latest American air attack on a military position guarding Saddam Dam in Ninawa Governorate had clearly reflected the current U.S. administration's position which ignored Iraq's peaceful initiative and good intentions to break with the past in spite of all the suffering Iraq had seen.

The daily stressed Iraq's keenness on securing a favourable climate to grow mutual confidence and give the new American administration a chance to reconsider the unjust moves and decisions made by the former administration in relation to Iraq.

It pointed out that Iraq had shown a great deal of self-restraint and preferred not to respond to the subsequent provocative statements given by U.S. officials in the belief that the new administration should be given enough time to review Bush's destructive polices from a point of view aimed at establishing what was right and logical, without skipping the elements of stability and security in the Arab Gulf region.

The paper made it clear that the former U.S. President's team in the U.S. Foreign and Defence Departments was still controlling the decision-making, planning to get the new president involved in a new chapter complementing the aggression against Iraq.

The paper advised President Clinton not to commit the same mistake of his predecessor whose policies had led him to a crushing defeat.

It underlined that the U.S. provocations would not shake Iraq's will and determination so long as Iraq was capable of repulsing any evil attempt to violate its right to preserve the country's unity and territorial integrity.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Jordanian Party Official

JN1204194193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received a delegation of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party [JSDP] led by Musa Quwaydir, secretary general of the party [title as heard].

In the course of his comments on the immortal showdown of the Mother of Battles, the comrade official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Ba'th Party said: Regardless of the heinous aggression, the continuation of the unfair embargo, and the hardships and difficulties caused by the embargo, Iraq has not bowed. Reliance on intrinsic capabilities and the Iraqis' unleashing their resources have bolstered our faith and confidence in the future. The immortal Mother of Battles has banished numerous obstacles and difficulties which used to stand in the way of joint Arab action, particularly on the popular level.

For his part, JSDP Secreary General Musa Quwaydir said that Iraq has attracted the attention of the world and won its admiration, thanks to its confrontation of the aggressive powers and the reconstruction endeavor in which it has been engaged. We, he added, have seen the greatness of Iraq and its leader in the steadfastness demonstrated, and also in accepting the challenge to rebuild the country after it was destroyed by the aggressors.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Ba'th Party's Foreign Relations Bureau as well as the secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference.

Reportage on Protests of U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

UN Envoy Protest

JN1104095693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0928 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] New York, 11 Apr (INA)—Iraq has once again protested U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace between 1-7 April on provocation and surveillance missions.

In a letter sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said U.S. aircraft conducted 392 sorties in the first week of April at various altitudes and speeds over the southern and northern regions.

Protest to Arab League

JN1104105093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued provision of facilities to U.S., British, and French planes which constantly violate Iraqi airspace and the serious threat to Iraq's sovereignty and national unity this violation constitutes.

In a letter to the Arab League Secretary General, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative said the U.S., British, and French planes carried out 52 hostile sorties last Wednesday and Thursday.

In its letter, Iraq asked that the Arab League member states be informed of these regrettable facts, and attached a list of these violations.

Protest Against U-2 Flights

JN1204093993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] New York, 12 Apr (INA)—Iraq has condemned the unwarranted violations of its airspace by the U.S. spy planes U-2, which take off from bases in Saudi Arabia.

In a letter sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraq reaffirmed that these aircraft were being used for purposes other than those defined by the Security Council, thus prejudicing Iraq's security and sovereignty.

The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, New York.

Your Excellency: I have the pleasure to note our letters to you, the last dated 27 March 1993, regarding the violations of the U.S. aircraft U-2 of Iraq's airspace under the pretext of conducting an aerial survey for the Special Commission.

I would like to inform you that at 1012 on Monday, 29 March 1993, a U.S. U-2 plane bearing the characters UNT1 violated Iraqi airspace, coming from its base in Saudi territory. The plane overflew large areas in central, northern, and western Iraq for five hours and 36 minutes, and then left for its base in Saudi territory at 1548.

At 1018 on Saturday, 3 April 1993, the plane once again violated Iraqi airspace, coming from Saudi territory. The plane overflew large areas in central and southern Iraq for four hours and 42 minutes, and then headed back for its base in Saudi territory at 1450.

At 1120 on Tuesday, 6 April 1993, this plane violated Iraqi airspace for the third time coming from its base in Saudi territory. It flew over large areas in central and northern Iraq for three hours and 35 minutes and then left for its base at 1455.

These three violations raise the total number of violations to 127. While denouncing and condemning these unwarranted violations of our airspace, we reaffirm Iraq's view that this plane is being used for purposes other than those defined by the Security Council and that its activity prejudices Iraq's security and sovereignty.

Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

[Dated] 10 April 1993

Reportage on Russian Parliamentary Delegation Visit

Delegation Arrives

JN1204132993 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 13, INA—The Russian Parliament delegation headed by Ilya Konstantinov, one of the leaders of Community Bloc and chairman of the National Salvation Front, and his accompanying delegation has arrived in Baghdad today.

The delegation is to conduct talks with a number of Iraqi officials dealing with relations between the two countries and means of developing them particularly in parliamentary areas in service of the two friendly peoples interest and their joint struggle against all forms of control and hated hegemony.

Ramadan Confers With Delegation

JN1204153493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has affirmed that the strength of world peoples as well as their nobility of descent come into full play when they experience ordeals, noting that their willpower and mettle are tested during hardships and difficulties.

During a reception accorded to a Russian parliamentary delegation headed by Ilya Konstantinov, chairman of the Russian National Salvation Front, Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the Iraqis under Saddam Husayn have underscored their pedigree and strength through their adherence to their principles and humane mission, and also through their rejection of subservience. He pointed out that the true cohesion existing between the leader and his people was the weapon Iraqis used to confront the most ferocious aggression in history and thwart the aggressors' schemes.

The vice president pointed out that the U.S.-led imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic alliance has not concealed its ambitions and objectives of dominating and humiliating world peoples and dividing cohesive peoples to secure its domination around the world under the guise of

upholding human rights and democracy—slogans which have proved to be deceptive. He reiterated that free peoples, who are aware of this aggressive course, will confront and thwart this policy to safeguard their dignity, sovereignty, and independence.

For their part, members of the Russian parliamentary delegation paid tribute to the Iraqis' steadfastness and strength. They also praised the Iraqis' defiance of the most heinous military, economic, and media onslaught. They noted that Russia will witness changes in favor of its peoples to rid itself of subservience to the United States. Furthermore, they affirmed that the aggression on free and independent Iraq and the continuation of the embargo imposed on its people are deemed an aggression on mankind as well as a defiance of international law and international norms. They expressed their confidence that Iraq will set an example for other world countries in progress, independence, and defiance of conspiracies and aggression as well.

Delegation Head Condemns Embargo

JN1204200493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Ilya Konstantinov, head of the Russian parliamentary delegation currently visiting Iraq, has called for immediately lifting the unfair embargo imposed on the people of Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Konstantinov, a leader of the Civil Community Bloc and chairman of the National Salvation Front, added that the embargo imposed on the people of Iraq is unfair and unjust, not to mention that it disturbs world peace and security.

The Russian parliamentary official noted that the embargo, which has caused the death of thousands of innocent people due to the medicine and food shortages it has created, promotes the interests of U.S. and world imperialism, which seeks to kill the sovereignty of nations.

The head of the Russian parliamentary delegation paid tribute to the development witnessed in Iraq under leader President Saddam Husayn and also to the reconstruction drive currently in full swing in Iraq. He also commended the spirit of the cohesive society prevailing in Iraq despite the conspiracies and the [words indistinct] aggression, to which the Iraqi people are being exposed.

Konstantinov said that his delegation is visiting Baghdad to hold talks with officials of the National Assembly and enhance the ties of friendship and cooperation between representatives of the two friendly countries.

Reconstruction Effort Impressive

JN1304104293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Russian parliamentary deputy Ilya Vladislavovich Konstantinov has applauded the determined stand of the Iraqi people and army in the teeth of imperialist and Zionist plots. In remarks to AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, Konstantinov said he and his delegation from the Russian Parliament were impressed by Iraq's reconstruction and rehabilitation effort under the circumstances of a ferocious imperialist offensive and a continuing embargo.

The UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq were not passed to uphold international legitimacy as the imperialist forces maintain. They are directed against the Iraqi people and were designed to meddle in Iraq's internal affairs and hurt its sovereignty and national unity, Konstantinov added.

He called on militant forces around the world to join forces and work toward getting the embargo lifted.

His delegation will educate and enlighten the Russian public about conditions in Iraq and the countrywide grassroots support for President Saddam Husayn.

He called the cohesion between the Iraqi masses and leadership the driving spirit for a brighter future.

Konstantinov called for assuring Iraq's territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty in the interest of regional security and stability.

Saudi Guards Attack Iraqi Detainees

JN1004172193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—People arriving from Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] have said that a wave of deep anger and resentment has prevailed in the Rafha camp, in which Iraqi detainees are being held, in the wake of the authorities' attack on the detainees.

These people said that the detainees, who were carrying clubs and knives, staged a one-and-a-half-hour demonstration in the camp. During the demonstration, they burned the supply building and shops in the camp market. The arriving people said that the detainees confronted the agents of the Saudi regime and added that many of them were wounded in the confrontation.

Following the exacerbation of the events in the camp, the authorities of the Saudi regime beefed up the protection force with two armored battalions from the Saudi National Guard. Saudi soldiers were deployed in the camp, imposed a curfew on it, and arrested many Iraqi detainees. In addition, the Iraqi detainees were deprived of food and water.

Compensation Sought From OPEC

JN1004091193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—Iraq has stressed that it is seriously seeking compensation from the OPEC member states for the period of the suspension of its oil exports.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, a source at the Oil Ministry said that that Iraq will also ask international insurance organizations and bodies to compensate for the losses Iraqi oil tankers sustained as a result of the halt of their work due to the circumstances of the aggression and the economic blockade.

Ibrahim Kazim Rashid, director general of the Iraqi Oil Tanker Company, noted that that the losses that the company has sustained as a result of these circumstances totalled $675 million, including $200 million for the damage caused by the shelling of some of the oil tankers and barges which anchored at Iraqi ports, and $300 million, which is the value of their damaged and burned load of crude oil. This is in addition to $175 million, which represents the loss sustained as a result of the halt of transportation by the company's fleet since the beginning of the aggression until the month of March.

He added that the company's fleet consists of 20 oil tankers whose deadweight capacity amounts to 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil. This is in addition to a number of barges.

Rebels: 'Subversive' Office in Amman Established

NC1004155793 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] According to well-informed sources, an institution named al-Saqr has recently opened an office in Amman. The institution, which poses as a business firm, is run by 'Udayy, son of the tyrant [reference to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn]. In press statements today, sources say that al-Saqr has agents and offices in Germany and a number of European countries and is using its business facade to conceal its involvement in terrorist activities.

The sources add that al-Saqr's agents are active in organizing subversive acts against the opposition's forces, parties, and organizations. The agents are also involved in hostile activities aimed at dividing the opposition.

It is worth noting that al-Saqr's head office is located in the al-Mansur neighborhood of Baghdad.

Ministers, Advisers Sworn in by Saddam 11 Apr

JN1104162093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1252 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The following were sworn in today by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn: Dr. Humam 'Abd-al- Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, as minister of higher education and scientific research; Brigadier General 'Abd Hamid Mahmud, as secretary to the president with the rank of minister; and Dr. Ja'far Dia' Ja'far, as adviser to the president with the rank of minister.

Attending the swearing in ceremonies were Hatim Hamdan al- 'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office; and staff Lieutenant Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, the president's adviser, who is in charge of industry and oil.

Kurdish Prime Minister-Designate Appointed

JN1104175293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1642 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The Kurdistan National Council today tasked 'Abdallah Rasul, nicknamed (Costras), member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's Political Bureau and member of the Kurdistan National Council, to form a new government for Iraqi Kurdistan. This government will replace the government of Dr. Fu'ad Masum whose duties the National Council had ended on 18 March .

It is worth mentioning that changes will take place in the new government of Iraqi Kurdistan. Several ministerial portfolios are expected to be given to the other sides in Kurdistan.

Live Fire Exercise Conducted by Military

JN1204184493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Military units have conducted a live fire assault exercise in the al-Qadisiyah forces' sector of operations in the presence of Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of defense.

The supervisor of the exercise and his staff officers reviewed the nature of the exercise as well as the objectives it was meant to achieve, noting that the exercise planners have taken into account the rich lessons produced by Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle and the Mother of Battles.

The armor, infantry, artillery, and mortar personnel pounced upon their targets, using heavy, light, and medium weapons. They occupied target positions quickly, demonstrating a high degree of motivation.

At the end of the exercise, fighter [words indistinct] praised the endeavors made by the combatants who participated in the exercise "The Mujahidin Assault."

The exercise was attended by Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, chief of staff of the Army; his assistant for operations; senior Armed Forces officers; and the secretary of the al-Basrah military branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, who holds the rank of a brigadier general.

Rabin on Closure of Territories, Mubarak Summit

TA1304112793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Nisim Qeynan in Ashqelon on 13 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Qeynan] We are attending the festivities in Ashqelon's national park where the Moroccan community is celebrating Mimuna [the birth of Maimonides]. New Immigrants, including some from Russia and Ethiopia, joined the festivities. A few minutes ago, the prime minister, who was invited to the main tent where he tasted the delicacies, was brought back to the security-political reality. We asked him how long the closure on the territories would continue.

[Rabin] There is a government decision to continue the closure. The significance of this is that those who cross from the territories into Israel are supervised. We will decide from time to time whether additional permits to Arab workers will be granted.

[Qeynan] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid warned about possible hunger and mass unrest in the territories soon, which would bring irreparable damage. What is your response?

[Rabin] I do not speculate. My job is first and foremost to provide security for the inhabitants of Israel. We are facing tough problems. There are external enemies—the Lebanese border is still a security problem—and even the closure cannot be imposed hermetically and prevent every single terrorist act inside Israel and even more so in the territories. We have to deal with that situation. We have to ask ourselves one question: What is the top priority? It is to provide a feeling of security to the residents of Israel—at least most of them—inside the Green Line, including Greater Jerusalem, and the Israelis in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Everything that is being done is to achieve that aim.

[Qeynan] What about the economic aspect? Will the workers in the territories, who are now unemployed, receive employment compensation?

[Rabin] I will not go into that. We will try to find jobs there because we have learned the hard way that their mingling inside Israeli territory created a grave security situation. We want to reduce that. We cannot prevent it totally, but I believe we can reduce it significantly.

[Qeynan] Tomorrow, you are holding a summit meeting with President Mubarak. Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today said that this is capitulating.

[Rabin] I am going to meet with the president of Egypt, the country that signed a peace agreement with us, and has been upholding it for some 14 years. I view Egypt as the Arab partner to advance the peace negotiations. That is why I am going to meet with him with great pleasure.

[Qeynan] Then this is not going to Canossa?

[Rabin] Pure rubbish. [passage omitted]

Egypt, U.S. Reportedly To Seek Gaza Autonomy 'First'

TA1304105293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Apr 93 pp 1, 15

[Report from Cairo by Shim'on Schiffer and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] Political sources in Jerusalem estimate that in the next few days, toward the resumption of the peace talks, the Americans and the Egyptians will demand that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin implement autonomy in Gaza first.

The prime minister is leaving tomorrow for Ismailiya, where he will meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Political sources in Jerusalem have reported that in the meeting, the prime minister intends to present the Egyptian president with new ideas aimed at promoting the arrangement with the Palestinians. These ideas focus on Israel's willingness to expand the authority of the Palestinian self-government council during the three years of the interim arrangement. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Roni Shaqed adds: Following the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni in the Palestinian delegation for the peace talks, the Palestinians are demanding that Sari Nusaybah and Hanan 'Ashrawi be also included in the delegation.

Nusaybah and 'Ashrawi, just like al-Husayni, are East Jerusalem residents bearing an Israeli ID. Until recently, Israel has opposed in principle to having East Jerusalem residents represented in the Palestinian delegation, but it has retracted this stand to allow the inclusion of al-Husayni in the delegation.

The Palestinian request has been relayed to the United States, to coordinate its moves on the issue with Israel.

Deputy Minister on Rabin-Mubarak Summit

TA1304104193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Roni Daniyel—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Good day to Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good day.

[Daniyel] Perhaps you could tell us what Israel should expect from tomorrow's meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Egyptian President Mubarak?

[Beilin] I must say that I am not convinced that this meeting and Mubarak's efforts are what will determine whether the negotiations in Washington on 20 April are indeed held, or God forbid, are not held. Nevertheless, President Mubarak's very involvement in the dealings between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Syrians is

extremely important because Egypt is the only Arab country we have peace with, and the very fact that today they are prepared to continue being involved and counsel the others from their own experience could serve to promote the process; however, I would definitely not describe this meeting as critical for the April talks.

[Daniyel] Some meetings of this kind are planned long in advance, but not this particular summit, which was almost a snap decision. What can you tell us about this particular meeting and about the way the decision to hold it was reached?

[Beilin] I think that President Mubarak thought about holding such a meeting even before his talks in Washington and Paris. He wanted to make all the rounds to see where things stood and whether he should get involved in the talks between Israel and the Arabs. Incidentally, the decision to hold this meeting was not just taken instantaneously as opposed to several recent meetings, for example when 'Amr Musa arrived. This time a longer period was involved, and I believe that both parties had sufficient pause to prepare themselves. Naturally, bilateral issues are also discussed at such summits, not only issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, I do not perceive any note of urgency to this summit in that sense. I think that the very fact that the Israeli prime minister is meeting the Egyptian president for the second time in several months is a very important development that we have not witnessed for a great many years. That is another reason why this summit is significant.

[Daniyel] Will you participate in the summit? Was the Foreign Ministry a party to the preliminary consultations that were clearly held prior to the meeting?

[Beilin] There will be a representative of the Foreign Ministry excluding the ambassador himself who will accompany the prime minister to the meeting.

[Daniyel] Following these preliminary consultations, if such discussions were indeed held, what are the current expectations of Mubarak and the Palestinians?

[Beilin] I do not want to get into the issue of preliminary consultations. I can only say in principle that it could very well be that the Arab side, or Mubarak himself in this context, will raise during the meeting the matter of additional goodwill gestures they expect us to make prior to the talks in Washington. We feel that what has already been done, and Israel's readiness to make several goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians if and when they announce their participation in the talks, is enough and there is no need for additional steps. I assume that the Egyptians entertain various expectations that Israel will implement certain changes vis a vis the Palestinians. I am not sure whether these expectations can be realized.

Again however, I believe, that even a discussion about how Israel sees the future of the negotiations with the Syrians—and especially with the Palestinians—or our viewpoint regarding the possibility of significantly promoting the negotiations in the near future, as well as an exchange of views on these issues with the Egyptians, who are perhaps more familiar with the expectations on the Arab side, especially those of Syria and the Palestinians, than Israel, could definitely contribute to the promotion of the peace talks, which is something we all aspire to.

[Daniyel] We are dealing with a very crowded agenda. We have another week until the talks are scheduled to resume in Washington. Do you believe that the Palestinians will show up next week?

[Beilin] I think that not showing up would be a great mistake. I regret to say that they will not be the only ones to pay the price of such a mistake. We will also have to pay the price. I therefore hope that they will attend the talks, but I cannot be sure that this will indeed be the case.

[Daniyel] Thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

Closure as Long-Term Solution Questioned

TA1304113793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 13 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Two Very Quiet Weeks"]

[Text] We have had two quiet weeks, very quiet. The people of Israel went picnicking in the open air, and no Palestinian from the territories disturbed their peace. It was a very quiet political time as well. Wanting an Israel cleansed of Arabs, the right had its wish fulfilled; the center got proof that Rabin is a real man who takes care of security; and the left eagerly grasped the slogan of separating Israel from the territories as if it were a great treasure.

It is true that the calm with which the Jewish population accepted the redivision of Israel should encourage those who favor the return of the territories. The division was, to a large extent, the result of terror (after all, if there were no terror acts, the closure would not have been imposed), but the nonviolent leftists choose to forget this. The fact remains, however, that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been cut off from the State of Israel, and nobody really cared. The assumption of the supporters of withdrawal is that the natural next step—pulling the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of the territories—will be accepted with the same indifference.

This may be true, but there is a serious problem here. The separation from the territories, welcome as it may be, cannot be an arbitrary or unilateral move. And we have not yet considered the enormous amounts of money Israel would have to invest in the territories (just like any employer is obligated to pay severance pay when he dumps his employee after 25 years of service). The separation must be the result of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. At the moment, the Palestinians view the closure as an act of jailing and starving 1

million people. If we want to establish apartheid here—this is the right way to do it. If we want an arrangement—we must think of a different way.

Civil Administration Budget Expanded by 315 Percent

TA1304090893 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Eran Klein and Yo'av Kaspi]

[Text] In a briefing given during last Sunday's [11 April] cabinet session, the ministers were told that the Civil Administration's development budget in the territories for fiscal 1993 will reach 450 million, which constitutes an increase of 315 percent over last year's budget.

It was disclosed yesterday that Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, was given the government's agreement in principle to raise the Civil Administration's budget in order to include the implementation of projects such as road construction, infrastructure projects, electricity, telephone networks, water, and sewage. Following the cabinet's decision, the Civil Administration will now bring forward the implementation of infrastructure and development projects in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, which had been planned for the coming years, in order to absorb thousands of residents from the territories who have lost their jobs in Israel. The government also authorized 8,500 workers from the territories to work within the Green Line in agriculture.

Civil Administration officials warmly welcomed the cabinet's decision to expand their budget. Sources at the Civil Administration described it as a big and significant step forward. Now Civil Administration and Treasury officials will begin discussing the amounts of money due to be transferred. The Civil Administration is demanding a budget increase of 300 million shekels per year. Civil Administration sources said that they would begin moving the implementation of projects forward even before the exact sums were finalized. The sources added that if the Civil Administration receives the required funds, it will be possible to create thousands of new jobs within a month or two for the workers who lose their places of employment in Israel. The jobs will be in similar fields to those the workers were employed in within Israel, such as construction work.

Despite the decision taken by the cabinet on Sunday, both Civil Administration and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources continued to claim yesterday that a continued closure would lead to severe economic distress in the territories and called for its gradual removal.

Rabin Makes First Visit Beyond Green Line

TA1304061493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin has said that during the Passover holiday one must remember that liberation also entails the elimination of all forms of slavery. He said slavery and the Jewish people are diametrically opposed.

The prime minister made the comments at an official ceremony in Ma'ale Adumim to open the Mimuna [birthday of Maimonides] festivities of the North African Jewish community. Rabin said that Ma'ale Adumim is part of greater Jerusalem, but a Qol Yisra'el reporter notes that it is the first visit by the prime minister to a Jewish settlement over the Green Line. Also attending the ceremony were President Hayim Herzog, the head of the Army's Central Command, the chief rabbis, and the mayor of Ma'ale Adumim.

Committees To Recommend Returning More Deportees

TA1304051393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The review committees that were established to reexamine the list of deportees to Lebanon will recommend returning additional deportees on top of the 101 whom the prime minister has already decided to bring back. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is here in the studio with more details:

An official announcement on the completion of the review committees' work will only be issued at the appropriate time. What is that appropriate time? Just as Israel will only announce a package of goodwill gestures toward the Palestinians in the territories after it becomes clear that the Palestinians will definitely attend the upcoming round of peace talks, the announcement regarding the completion of the review committees' work will only be published under the appropriate circumstances.

It is worth noting that the committees were set up as part of the Rabin-Christopher agreement to resolve the deportee problem, on top of the decision to immediately return 101 out of the approximately 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members, and to halve the period of deportation for the rest.

According to the information in our possession so far, the committees will indeed recommend the return of more deportees in addition to the 101 but no exact figures have been decided yet.

However, it must be stressed that Israel has informed Egypt through official channels over recent days that it has no intention of changing the Rabin-Christopher agreement. President Mubarak, for his part, has affirmed that this agreement remains valid.

What then will Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Egyptian president discuss in their meeting tomorrow. According to the assessments of both Israeli and Egyptian sources, the two men will discuss the above mentioned goodwill package toward the Palestinians, which includes the return of veteran deportees, family reunifications, human rights, and the removal of the closure of

the territories. The two men will also discuss the negotiations with Syria. According to Egyptian sources, Mubarak will say that Syria is ready to offer full peace in return for a phased Israeli withdrawal. They will also discuss regional issues, such as Libya and the Iranian threat, which the Egyptians regard as far more dangerous than that posed by Iraq.

Farmers Permitted To Hire 9,000 Arabs

TA1204192793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli farmers have received permission to employ from tomorrow 9,000 workers from the territories, compared to 20,000 before the closure on the territories was imposed. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur announced that he has set up a committee to work out ways to introduce new technologies to agriculture in order to reduce the need for workers. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports that Tzur will confer with Finance Minister Shohat this week to assure funding to encourage the farmers to purchase technology.

Minister Shohat is considering permitting over 10,000 Arabs from the territories to return to the building trade in Israel. The aim is to grant permits to veteran workers employed by registered builders.

EC Approves Israel's 'Observer' Status

TA1104104693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The diplomatic effort conducted by Israel over the past few months bore fruit several days ago when the EC withdrew its objection to incorporating Israel in the "West Europe and Others" geographical group in the framework of the Chemical Nonproliferation Treaty institutions.

After the European troika returned from its Middle East tour, the EC's top political echelons decided that Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen, the current troika chairman, would negotiate Israel's inclusion in the "West Europe and Others" geographical group. The agreement achieved in principle so far is that Israel will join the group only as an "observer," but Jerusalem expects this status to be upgraded to full membership before long.

At this point, the Europeans persist in their objection to Israel's incorporation in a similar group at the United Nations, but Israel hopes that the most recent revision will bring about a change in the EC position on this issue, too.

The EC changed its stand in the wake of pressure exerted by Israel and by the United States, which was asked to intervene. The United States and Europe were apparently swayed by Israel's implicit threat that its noninclusion in any geographical group is liable to hamper its ability to cooperate and to ratify the chemical nonproliferation treaty, which was signed in Paris several months ago.

Originally, the Europeans decided that Israel naturally belonged in the Asia group, and they advised Israel to approach that body, despite the certainty that Arab countries would not agree to include Israel.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Israelis

NC1304103393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Three Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded in a bomb attack inside the border strip this morning. Early reports say the attack was carried out on a patrol passing through the al-Qantarah area.

A short time ago the Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attack and said it destroyed an Israeli tank during the operation.

Following the attack, Israeli artillery shelled several villages in the south including Tulin, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Wadi al-Suluqi, and Wadi al-Hujayr. Four Israeli helicopters raked Wadi al-Suluqi.

Security sources in the south said today that the Israeli army has deployed new troops near the deportees' camp in Marj al-Zuhur. Last night it opened fire on hills surrounding the camp. Two Israeli Merkava tanks were sent to reinforce the Israeli position in a village overlooking the camp.

Israeli 'Warplanes' Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC1304084493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps at about 1015 today. They also carried out mock air raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Peace Talks Called 'Negotiation of Surrender'

NC1304105393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Station commentary: "Calling Them Negotiations is Falsehood"]

[Text] Finally, after closing off the occupied territories, the Israeli Government has decided to extend the closure indefinitely under Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's slogan: The closure reinforces the Israelis' sense of security. Clearly, the escalation pursued by Rabin, the Arabs' intimate friend, is the initiative he is offering them in the ninth round of the negotiations of surrender. It is different from the initiative that the weak in spirit expected from the usurping entity. They awaited concessions before the next round of talks, particularly in connection with those driven from their homes. Instead of the concession expected by the Arabs, the very serious step of closing off the occupied territories has been taken. Israeli forces will besiege the West Bank and Gaza Strip until further notice. In this way, these areas are isolated from each other and from the world, tightening the noose around 150,000 Palestinians who work outside the areas in which they live. Thus they remain unemployed, letting hundreds of thousands of Palestinians suffer dire economic hardship.

If things had only stopped here. There is also a military siege. The so-called Israel Defense Forces are given orders to freeze the blood of those who walk around their narrow streets in search of food for themselves and their families. There is a serious fear that the usurping state is seeking to divide the occupied territories into separate areas in a permanent post-negotiation arrangement. The current measures prove our fears. How else can we explain the severing of contacts between the territories occupied in 1967 and those occupied in 1948. We have the right to fear for the Palestinians, not only from the Zionist enemy, but also from those breathlessly waiting for U.S. promises to be fulfilled, that is, if they perform well in front of the Zionists in a process falsely called negotiations. Actually, it is U.S.-Zionist conditions being dictated to the Arabs. Negotiations should mean that the conflicting parties make reciprocal concessions. Otherwise, where is the sense in holding a meeting of Arab parties to decide whether they should attend the next talks? The deportee issue remains unresolved, causing embarrassment to the Arab delegations, who cannot attend the next round of talks without the Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian delegation is acutely embarrassed because it cannot circumvent the deportee issue. U.S. pressure on the Arabs mounts. The ninth round is the first during Clinton's term. If it is not held, this might create a dilemma for the White House master who came to the Presidency with promises to fulfill the Jews' dreams for which they have mobilized all their cunning. Perhaps the Arab negotiators sympathize with Clinton, saying that when he assumed the U.S. Presidency, he believed he was ruling the world via the new world order. Can we leave him without at least one round of talks during his term? God forbid. If he plunges them into a sea of humiliation, they will comply so as not to have him feel weak. They will do this if the decision remains in their hands. But it is not. The decision is now in the hands of the stone and knife-bearers and the intifadah strugglers who fight the usurping entity and those who submit to its tyranny. The resistance fighters will instruct the world how to fight and teach the enemies unforgettable lessons.

No Weapons After Israel Withdraws From South

NC1304074693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that as long as Israel occupies the south, the people have the right to do all they can to liberate their land. He announced: When Israel withdraws from the south, we will permit no one but the Army to carry weapons. But we cannot now turn ourselves into an authority protecting the Israeli occupier, because that would be unacceptable treason.

Dallul remarked: Syria alone extends to us all the assistance and military aid we need.

Deportee Criticizes 'Arafat Comment on Jerusalem

NC1004161593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami held a joint news conference at the deportee camp in Marj al-Zuhur today. Dr. al-Rantisi said if the Palestinian delegation returns to the negotiating table it would be high treason against the Palestinian people and the Arabs. He added: I recall earlier statements by members of the Palestinian delegation in which they said they would not return to the negotiating table unless Resolution 799 was implemented. I also recall that members of the delegation said the Arab delegations would not return to the negotiating table without the Palestinians.

The Palestinian delegation's return to the negotiations not only contradicts the wishes of the Palestinian people but also earlier promises by delegation members. The return of the Palestinian delegation to the talks would embarrass the Arab delegations and force them to return to the negotiating table, al-Rantisi said.

Commenting on remarks by Yasir 'Arafat that the main obstacle to the peace process is Jerusalem, al-Rantisi said: If Jerusalem were the only obstacle to the talks, the Palestinian delegation would not have gone to Madrid. The Palestinian delegation went to Madrid despite the fact that Israel said it would not negotiate with anyone from Jerusalem, would not discuss Jerusalem in the talks, and would keep Jerusalem as its eternal capital. When did Jerusalem become the only obstacle, al-Rantisi asked? He said that 'Arafat's remarks were designed to obscure the deportee issue.

Fadlallah: 'What Kind of Peace' With Israel

NC1304080293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said: If we can keep our will free, our cause will remain free. If our will bends because we are faced by an occupier, arrogant powers, pressures, and problems, we will get nothing.

'Allamah Fadlallah added: Those who like to kiss the occupier's feet will be crushed by him. As for those who strongly resist him, he will respect them from the depths of his heart, even when he opens fire on them.

His eminence criticized the suggestion that Israel is making concessions, backing down, or thinking realistically. He said the Zionists regard Jerusalem as forever Israeli.

He referred to Jerusalem-born Palestinians being uprooted through the claim that they have addresses in Ramallah.

His eminence said the difference between the Arabs and Israel is that Israel seeks to turn U.S. arguments into Israeli ones, while we turn our Arab arguments into Israeli-U.S. ones.

He remarked: Israel and the United States work according to a plan, while the Arabs act without one. This produces despair and frustration in Arab and Muslim hearts. The people who await the day when peace comes do not pause to think what kind of peace it will be.

His eminence concluded: Life is an endless battle against the oppressors and arrogant ones who want to seize all our land and turn our countries into consumer markets for their products. But God has ordained that we be proud and free. Let us then be proud and free.

Economy Group Ministers Leave for Damascus

NC1004121093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Fu'ad Sinyurah, minister of state for financial affairs; Hagop Demerdjian, minister of economy and trade; and As'ad Rizq, minister of industry and oil, left for Damascus today for talks with Syrian officials on issues of common concern.

Arab Parties to Talks To Meet 16, 17 Apr

JN1204113993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held telephone contacts this morning and yesterday evening with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi.

Talks dealt with the peace process and the obstacles facing it. It was agreed to resume the coordination meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace process in Damascus on 16 and 17 April.

Commentary Urges U.S. 'Full Partner' Role

JN1204142693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Only a few days separate us from the date proposed for the ninth round of peace talks in Washington. Instead of easing tensions, Rabin's government is escalating it; and instead of lifting the siege imposed on our people under occupation, it decides to extend it indefinitely.

Coinciding with this Israeli escalation, Rabin's government is trying to suggest that there may be some positive attitude in the future after the resumption of talks. Everybody knows that the Israeli Government does not respect any commitments and that its promises are worthless, and are frequently forgotten. In that regard, we note that Yitzhaq Rabin, who pledged to accelerate the peace process and the achievement of a settlement within a period not exceeding nine months, has devoted all his efforts to place obstacles and hurdles on the path of the peace process and to provoke the Arab parties in the hope that they would boycott the Washington talks.

We also note that Yitzhaq Rabin had pledged to freeze settlement activities in return for U.S. loan guarantees. However, confirmed reports have revealed that new settlements are under construction. Rabin is even offering Jewish settlers houses in the occupied Golan Heights at bargain prices.

Naturally, the Israeli Government's conduct, which has become a source of concern to the world community, does not encourage the Arab parties to fight the nine round of talks, despite the activity demonstrated by the U.S. Administration to convene that round on its scheduled date.

Peace in the Middle East will benefit U.S. interests, as well as those of states of the region. Every observer knows that Israel is a financial, political, and military burden to the United States, and that its ruthless practices in the occupied territories and serious violations of human rights and UN resolutions greatly harm the U.S. reputation as a superpower that should protect the international community.

Consequently, the Arabs have frequently travelled to Washington to see the full partner role, announced by the new U.S. administration, translated into practice by applying means of pressure against Israel, with the aim of supporting the principles of right and justice and defending the international charters. The fair partner cannot keep silent about Israel's serious crimes and growing defiance of the UN Security Council's authority and resolutions. It suffices to note that since 1948, the Israeli rulers have not applied any UN resolution and have been acting as if they were above international law. The latest resolution, Resolution 799, which stipulates the return of all Palestinian deportees to their homes, is a living proof of their disdain and disregard of the United Nations and its resolutions.

The Arab foreign ministers, who will resume their meetings in Damascus within days, will make a decisive decision on participation in the ninth round of talks in the light of the U.S. pledges and commitments and the Israeli practices.

Needless to say, the Arabs advocate a just, comprehensive, and genuine peace. They believe that the U.S. commitment to the principles of the Madrid conference and a comprehensive settlement on all fronts will encourage them to continue with the talks until the end. It is also very important for the Arabs to put the U.S. commitment to the test and expose to the entire world the truth about Israel's peace claims.

The savage acts and horrible crimes in the occupied territories reflect the true intentions of Tel Aviv rulers. The Palestinians have received the Madrid conference with optimism and expected positive results. The picture is now the opposite. The Palestinians and the Arabs have joined the peace talks with a constructive spirit, but reaped bitter fruit. The repression is growing, terror is expanding, and anger is flaring everywhere. The occupied territories are now a large prison, and during Easter despair is dominating every Arab citizen there.

Naturally, the deterioration in peace talks would not have reached its current state if the U.S. administration had not been slow in fulfilling its required role, the role of the fair partner that supports right, justice, international law, and human rights. Will we see a change in the U.S. policy? Will Clinton's administration implement its pledges to respect human rights and support the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, which the U.S. president spoke about a few days ago?

The Arabs have repeatedly confirmed their concern for peace and sincere quest to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement on all fronts that would place the Middle East on the road to stability and prosperity and end the suffering. The United States has to translate its commitments into reality and its pledges into facts. It must check Israel's aggressiveness and support the peace process in a serious and practical way.

U.S. Urged To Avoid 'Cavalier' Approach

JN1304100393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Press Review]

[Text] It is now common knowledge that the Arabs want a peace settlement based on UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula, TISHRIN writes. All the Arabs have stated that they want the Washington talks to bear fruit, and that they do not want the ninth round to meet the same fate as the earlier rounds that, thanks to Israel's negative approach to peace, proved a waste of time and energy. Arab espousal of an even-handed, universal peace has put Israel in a tight spot and driven it into prevaricating and maneuvering. With Israel's games thus exposed, the international community should assume its political responsibilities, and, as co-sponsor of the peace conference, the U.S. administration should steer clear of a cavalier approach to Israel's maneuvers and equivocation. The Rabin government reads into the silence of the international community over the obstacles it raises an invitation for it to carry on with its violations and provocations. This passivity on the part of the international community undermines its credibility; the passivity of the U.S. administration is at odds with the role of full partner, which, as such, is supposed to be objective and honest, and to hold in check Israel's aggressiveness and call a halt to its machinations to spike the peace process. TISHRIN stresses the need for the Arab parties engaged in the Washington talks to coordinate their actions so that Israel may be robbed the opportunity to go too far in its anti-peace antics.

Syria is only too aware of the implications of the peace making effort, and will shoulder the responsibility the battle for peace entails. Syria also realizes that Israel's calculations can best be upset and its maneuvers confounded by the Arabs forging a determined, united stand; then they will not fall in the traps set for them by the Rabin government.

TISHRIN says in conclusion: No one any longer falls for Israel's tricks; these have to be exposed, and the Arabs must stay committed to a comprehensive and universal peace grounded in an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and assurance of the Palestinian people's rights, including self-determination. This is because as long as occupation remains, peace can never be viable or lasting.

AL-BA'TH takes up the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks and the ongoing intensive consultations to create the right climate. The paper writes: Consultations on various levels are being pursued with the aim of securing the right climate for starting the ninth round of the peace talks. If the thrust of these consultations is the removal of the political and military obstacles created by Israel both in and beyond the occupied territories, pressure must now be brought to bear on the Rabin government now more than at any time in the past to make it bow to international legitimacy and UN resolutions through a commitment to the principles on which the peace process was launched.

The paper notes that the Arab parties are seeking justice and implementation of UN resolutions, and are truly committed to the peace process. The Arab parties are aware of the tricks Israel has been playing to frustrate peace making efforts throughout the previous rounds, and yet they have all along demonstrated good faith.

Noting the mass deportations of Palestinians and the daily killings in the occupied territories, AL-BA'TH says: International efforts are being made to remove the obstacles blocking the path to peace, with the Arab parties working to achieve a united stand and a collective decision signalling their commitment to peace.

Reportage on Romanian President Visit, Talks

President Arrives 12 Apr

JN1204173993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 12 Apr (SANA)—Romanian President Ion Iliescu arrrived in Damascus at 1715 today on a visit to Syria.

President Hafiz al-Asad headed those receiving him at the Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Talks Open 12 Apr

JN1204180893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Romanian President Ion Iliescu started at 2000 today with a closed session they held at the People's Palace.

A round of official talks was held 1900 today at the Prime Ministry between the Syrian side, headed by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and the Romanian side, headed by Finance Minister by Florin Georgescu. [passage omitted]

During this session of talks, the conferees discussed the ties of cooperation existing between the two countries in the fields of industry, commerce, information, and tourism. The conferees also discussed topics that would help strengthen the existing ties of cooperation and promote them for the benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples.

A commercial agreement and a media agreement between the two countries will be signed tomorrow.

Al-Asad Hosts Dinner

JN1304073893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Romania's Ion Iliesco exchanged friendly speeches at a dinner given for the esteemed guest at the People's Palace. President al-Asad welcomed the Romanian guest on his first visit to Damascus since he assumed office, wishing him and his delegation a happy stay in our country. President Iliesco's visit, he stated, is an expression of a sincere desire to consolidate the friendship and cooperation the two peoples have built over the years. The Syrian Arab people hold Romania and its people in high regard, added the president.

If we are for global peace, we may as well work for peace in our own region. We are working in good faith to bring peace to the Middle East—a just and comprehensive peace built on the foundations of the peace process that began over 18 months ago, al- Asad added. Eight rounds into the peace process, noted the president, it has yet to register any headway thanks to Israel's postures. Having laid the groundwork for the peace process, Syria will make every effort to pursue it to a successful conclusion.

President al-Asad observed that the parties to the peace process have been engaged in a flurry of diplomatic and political activity with a view to restarting the talks on the bases that were elaborated during the initial rounds of the Madrid peace conference. These contacts are ongoing and will be pursued to the end, al-Asad asserted.

In his speech, President Iliesco said he was grateful for the welcome and hospitality shown him and his delegation. He was visiting Syria, he said, as home of one of the oldest, cultural and civilized centers in the world. The second reason he was visiting Syria is that, considering the changes his country has been through, Romania was willing to step up bilateral ties in the mutual interest of the two countries. Romania, he added, was now strengthening its existing economic ties with other countries and establishing new relations. This is in order for Romania to be a force for stability in the country's vicinity, he explained. One of the goals of his visit to Syria is to bolster economic ties. He was glad that the two countries will today, Tuesday sign a new economic pact.

Concluding, the Romanian president said he was highly appreciative of Syria's efforts to establish a just and universal peace in the region.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Eslami Reportedly Violates Cease-Fire

LD1204171893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Four missiles hit the presidential palace in Kabul and six others hit a residential part of the city last night, causing a great deal of damage. According to a report by the German news agency DPA, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman said: The missiles were fired from Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] positions to the south of the capital. Thus, the peace agreement which was signed on 7 March has been broken.

The Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman added: Two weeks ago, Hezb-e Eslami forces broke the peace agreement by attacking Sarubi, 80 km east of Kabul.

Jam'iyat Officer Shot; Hezb-e Eslami Blamed

BK1304104193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Kabul—Commander Bakhtmal of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] was killed and 14 of his bodyguards wounded in a sniper attack near Sarowbi the other day. The Jam'iyat accused rival Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of launching the attack.

Meanwhile, violations of the cease fire still continue despite the Islamabad accord. In Kot Sangi and Kargha, jointly held by the Shi'ite Wahadat [Islamic Unity Party], several people were injured in clashes between the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union Party] and the government forces. Kabulis believe lasting peace would only be a dream as long as differences persist in the faction-ridden mojahedin.

Attacks Intensify in Kabul Despite Cease-Fire

LD1304104293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Reports received from Kabul indicate that after a week of calm the residential areas in the city's western districts have come under light and heavy weapons fire during the past three days. According to a report of the IRIB correspondent dispatched to Kabul, as a result of these attacks at least 30 innocent women and children were killed and dozens were injured. The roar of artillery fire, relatively silenced for a fortnight in the wake of a cease-fire agreement signed between the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Esalam-e] and the Supervisory Council, is once again intensified in the Kabul city and particularly in the western and southern districts. The roar of gunfire is worst at dusk and dawn every day.

An informed political source in Kabul said that the objective of those responsible for the artillery attack is to create insecurity in the western and southern districts of Kabul and to prevent the establishment of peace in the capital of Afghanistan.

There were also rumors on the involvement of Islamic Unity Party and Supervisory Council forces in the recent clashes. But these rumors were rejected by the sources affiliated to the two parties. Another source affiliated to Afghanistan's president stated that last night several mortars hit the presidential palace grounds which did not leave any casualties. It is not yet clear as to which warring faction or party used mortar launchers to fire on the presidential palace. It seems the responsible side is afraid of being recognized by the people of Kabul, but at the same time some suspicious elements palace. It seems the responsible side is afraid of being recognised intend to prevent establishment of peace in Kabul.

* 'Diplomatic Sources': Hekmatyar May Use Force

93AS0732B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] Kabul and London—Diplomatic sources in Kabul said yesterday that Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has warned that he will use force to secure the "full" implementation of the previous agreement of March.

Hekmatyar informed the quadripartite mediation committee, headed by Ibrahim Bakr, that there are elements which wish to waste time and transform the agreement into mere "ink on paper."

It has been decided that Ibrahim Bakr, assistant secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, will go to meet with interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Peace efforts suffered an unexpected setback when a Pakistani mediation delegation, headed by senate member Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, decided to return to Peshawar only one hour after arriving in Kabul after the members of the delegation and three journalists accompanying them were detained by force of arms at Kabul Airport and had their possessions stolen by Afghan security forces.

The airport is reportedly under the control of the Uzbek militia, which is led by General Abdol Rashid Dostam.

Militia members say that they are compelled to steal from senior guests arriving from abroad because they have not received their salaries since the communist regime in Kabul collapsed one year ago.

All of the delegation's possessions except clothing and passports were stolen. An Afghan Government spokesman expressed regret for the incident and promised to conduct an investigation.

Both Hekmatyar and Rabbani are attempting to convince their respective ministers to resign, but to no avail. None of the members of Rabbani's government have

resigned, and four of the 18 ministers appointed by Hekmatyar to his government have informed him that they cannot join a government that Rabbani opposes. The cease-fire negotiated by Pakistani ambassador Amir Usman remains in effect. However, sources close to Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have reported that Hekmatyar's forces are mobilizing southeast of the capital.

* Dostam Aide Pledges Not To Choose Sides

93AS0732A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Ahmad Muwwafaq Zaydan]

[Text] Kabul—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani yesterday declared invalid a decision made by Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar to dissolve the current government. Rabbani—in an apparent challenge to Hekmatyar, who is also the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]—called on the current ministers to continue serving until a new government is formed.

The initial reaction of the Uzbek militias, led by General Abdol Rashid Dostam, to Hekmatyar's moves to form a new government was given by Dostam's military aide in Kabul, General Humayun Fawzi. In a statement made yesterday to AL-HAYAH, General Fawzi declared the militia's endorsement of the decision to bring the militia into the next government, saying, "We support our entry into the ministries which will be assigned to us."

General Fawzi told AL-HAYAH that the militias will not intervene in any war between the Hezb-e Eslami and the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] will remain neutral in any struggle that might arise from Hekmatyar's decision to announce a government independent of the president. It is known that Hekmatyar has decided to assign two portfolios to the militias, one of which is the Communications Ministry, which will be assigned to Engineer Nasim Mehdi, who is Dostam's deputy in the chairmanship of the Harekat-e Qowmi-ye Eslami [National Islamic Movement], the militias' political wing.

Immediately after Rabbani's announcement of the nullification of Hekmatyar's decision to disband the government, two principals of Rabbani's government, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud (the defense minister) and Abdol Rasul Sayyaf (the leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union]) met to discuss the measures to be taken in the near term in the light of the isolation from which the Jami'at-e Eslami (headed by Rabbani) has began to suffer. While Mas'ud refused to respond to journalists' questions immediately after the meeting, Sayyaf told AL-HAYAH: "We decided that brother Mas'ud would continue heading the Defense Ministry, because the relative security now being enjoyed in Kabul through Mas'ud and his associates is better than losing security altogether." Sayyaf believes that Hekmatyar has no right to disband the government. He also denied being apprised of the composition of new cabinet which Hekmatyar is preparing to announce.

Under the new composition, which AL-HAYAH published two days ago, Mas'ud is to leave his post and become foreign minister. Rabbani rejects this change and has delayed announcing the new government based on this rejection.

AL-HAYAH has learned that contacts are now being held with Hekmatyar to urge him to postpone announcing the government in a news conference today. Hekmatyar may delay this announcement until tomorrow to allow time for mediation efforts to resolve the crisis between him and President Rabbani. Diplomatic figures have been participating in this attempt, including the Pakistani ambassador, Amir Usman, who met Hekmatyar and asked him not to announce the new government outside Kabul.

When Hekmatyar reportedly asked why Pakistan was refraining from supporting his position, the Pakistani ambassador replied, "How can we support you when you are living in an area which requires us to travel over rugged roads in order to reach it?" He asked Hekmatyar to leave his headquarters in Chahar Asiab and reside in the capital.

Hekmatyar's response was that the government palace at Chehelsotun (west of Kabul) was completely destroyed in the recent battles and was not suitable as a residence. He said that he could not enter Kabul until the militias evacuated their positions at the strategic stronghold of Bala Hesar (south of the capital).

Diplomatic sources with whom AL-HAYAH spoke believe that Hekmatyar hopes to further isolate the Jami'at-e Eslami by gaining the support of different groups, especially the militias, in what might be regarded as a bloodless coup in the ruling regime in Kabul.

The same sources expressed that fear that "Mas'ud is facing the same fate as Lebanese General Michel 'Awn, who was isolated and removed from his stronghold in Beirut by other Lebanese forces."

Hekmatyar on Talks With Pakistani Emissary

BK1104125093 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] Charasiab (APP)—Chief of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] and Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar said here Saturday that Islamabad Afghan peace accord constituted the basic mechanism for settling the Afghan crisis. He was talking to newsmen after his hour-long meeting with the secretary general foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki at his headquarters, 21 km south of Kabul.

Mr. Hekmatyar said Islamabad peace accord was the "only and the last chance for peace in Afghanistan". He said the Afghan nation would not forgive the Afghan leaders if this opportunity to restore peace in their war-ravaged land was not availed by them.

The Afghans, he added, wanted peace. The Afghan neighbouring countries were also interested in peace and stability in Afghanistan. he said the Afghan Islamabad peace accord signed on Mar 7 should be implemented as soon as possible.

To question whether they discussed the areas of conflict in the Afghan crisis, he said "major portion of their negotiations" was focused on contentious issues.

The Hezb-e Eslami chief said "there were some small and minor hurdles which are going to be removed".

Replying to a question he said he had "very good talks and detailed discussions on all issues," with Mr. Akram Zaki.

The prime minister designate appreciated the efforts by Pakist[illegible] in seeking a peaceful resolution of the Afghan problem. "The amount of attention by Pakistan government is very commendable," he added.

Meanwhile Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani said here Saturday Afghan mojahedin groups were holding negotiations with each other and hoped Afghan crisis would be resolved in cooperation with Prime Minister Designate Golboddin Hekmatyar. He was talking to journalists here after he held talks with Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki at the historic palace here on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Rabbani said that the obstacles in way of implementation of the Islamabad peace accord signed on March 7, would be removed under the spirit of cooperation among the mojahedin [words indistinct] peace accord stipulated that every Afghan mojahedin group would cooperate with each other. He said he was ready to extend the spirit of cooperation.

The Afghan president eulogised the services of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the nation during the Afghan jehad. he said the Afghan nation valued their services in the hour of their

India

'Hard-Core Militant' Killed in Punjab 12 Apr

BK1304092493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] In Punjab, a hard-core militant, Jagjit Singh alias Neela, was killed in an encounter with the security forces near village More in Sangrur District yesterday evening. Two militants were arrested in Faridkot District, one in Patiala District after a brief encounter.

Eight Militants Killed in Jammu and Kashmir

BK1304035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has said that the present situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not conducive for elections. Talking to newsmen in Hyderabad, he said the center has an open mind and is ready to take the help of all parties and sections interested in bringing normalcy in the state. Mr. Pilot said militancy in the state has to be fought firmly and strongly.

Meanwhile, the law and order situation in the Kashmir valley was reviewed at a high-level meeting convened by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi yesterday.

In Jammu and Kashmir, eight militants who crossed the Line of Control from across the border have been killed in an encounter with the security forces in (Kotwara) sector. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Five Militants, 1 Soldier Killed in Kashmir

BK1104052093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have confirmed that the self-styled divisional commander of the so-called Hezbul Mojahedin, Mohammed Maqbool Ilahi, was killed yesterday near Srinagar in an encounter with the Army. Four of his top associates were also killed in the exchange of fire that went on for a long time between the militants and the Army yesterday. An army jawan [soldier] and two others were also killed in the firing.

Meanwhile, curfew was imposed in Srinagar today after anti- national elements threatened to enforce the two-day bundh [strike] and tried to disturb peace. They set a building on fire in the heart of Srinagar. The flames engulfed a series of shops in area. Fire tenders from the army, air force, and the BSF [Border Security Force] rushed to the spot to control the fire. The governor of the state, General K.V. Krishna Rao, and senior officers visited the area.

Four 'Militants' Killed, 14 Apprehended

BK1104162193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, four militants were among the 21 killed, while security forces arrested 14 militants during the last 24 hours. According to an official spokesman, the four militants were killed by security forces during search operations in various parts of the valley. Militants hurled a grenade on the security picket at Rinawari Chowk resulting in the death of two pedestrians. A shikara [house] boat which was on its way from Lal Chowk to Lal Mandi carrying a large number of persons capsized in the river Jhelum. Three bodies have been recovered so far. Of the 14 militants apprehended, five each were from Baramula and Anantnag and two each from Pulwama and Doda.

Land Mine Explosion Kills Task Force Commandos

BK0904130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Fifteen commandos of the special task force set up by the Tamil Nadu government to track down the notorious sandalwood smuggler Verappan were killed in a land mine blast near Palar checkpost in Karnataka, 150 km from Selam. A police spokesman told our Madras correspondent that a 35-member squad had gone to the checkpost following a tip-off that Verappan was seen there this morning. As their vehicle was nearing the checkpost, the explosion took place killing 15 policemen and seriously injuring the superintendent of police of the task force, Mr. Gopalakrishnan. The injured are admitted to a hospital in Mettur.

Another Suspect Arrested in Bombay Blast

BK1004035693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] In Bombay, one more suspect linked with the bomb explosions in the city was arrested by the police yesterday. Some arms and ammunition were also recovered from him. The Bombay police have so far arrested 67 suspects in connection with the series of bomb blasts.

Maharashtra Police Seize Explosives, Detonators

BK1204161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The Maharashtra police have arrested two persons in connection with the seizure of about 800 kgs of powerful explosives, including ammonium nitrate and detonators from a godown at Naguthani in Raigarh District. The raid was conducted last night, leading to the recovery of ammonium nitrate concealed in 107 plastic bags. About 1,250 gelatin sticks, 14,000 electric detonators and other ancillary materials were recovered. The owner of the godown and its employee were taken into custody. Two others were arrested in Thane District in connection with the dumping of 2,380 kgs of explosives at Nagala Bandar.

Recover Projectiles, 'Crude' Bombs 12 Apr

BK1304090093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] In Maharashtra, police recovered 25 big rocket-like projectiles from the seabed near Valvanthi in Raigarh District last night. Thirty-two crude bombs were also recovered. According to the police, search operations are continuing for more explosives.

Civil Disturbances Cause Reduction in Oil Production

BK1004040693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Indigenous production of crude oil has come down marginally. The output during the period from April last year to January this year was 22.6 million tons about a million tons less than the target.

The annual report of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the just ended financial year says that the production was affected in Gujarat and Assam due to power shut downs and civil disturbances. The report says the public sector oil firms have made a post-tax profit of 2,091 crore rupees for the year, about 280 crore rupees more than the profit made in the year before.

Commentary Views Pakistan Hand in Bombay Blasts

BK0904115393 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 April 93

[Virendra Tripathi Commentary]

[Text] It was after India informed Western countries about Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay blasts, which claimed about 300 lives, Pakistan started self-contradictory statements reflecting nothing but nervousness, lest America declares Pakistan a terrorist-sponsoring state. Pakistan has smartly but foolishly charged New Delhi with manufacturing evidence to implicate Pakistan. In a nine- page statement, Pakistan Foreign Affairs Secretary General Akram Zaki alleged that Indian agencies have sacrificed the lives of hundreds of their citizens to achieve their (?affirmable) goal of having Pakistan declared a terrorist state by the U.S. Government. This is the third statement since March 23d.

India has given ample proof to the Western countries that the sordid episode was master-minded by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI]. This evidence includes documentary proof of the Memon family's flight from Bombay to Karachi via Dubayy, recovery of packets of explosives with Pakistani markings in the Memon's home in Bombay and the training in Pakistan of 20 persons in the use of explosive devices, and grenades used in Bombay were of Pakistani origin. In fact, after a severe setback in Punjab and a gradual erosion of its power in Kashmir, the ISI decided to create chaotic conditions in various parts of India, exploiting Muslim sentiments in the aftermath of the Ayodhya incident of December 6th last year. The ISI plan was executed under the patronage of Daud Ibrahim, the former underworld don who now resides in Dubayy. Using his vast network in Bombay, Daud engaged the Memon brothers, their henchmen and other Bombay criminals—all Muslims—who did the actual work of planting explosive devices at different places in the city. The explosives were smuggled into India sometime in January and February this year via sea and unloaded through various places,

including Shetari, eight km from Shriwardhan, Maharashtra. It is the home constituency of Abdul Rahman Antulay, former chief minister of Maharashtra. Subsequently, 20 persons were ferried to Pakistan via Dubay where they were imparted training in explosives for 10 days. These persons returned to India on 4 March. After explosive blasts when Indian Government was in the process of collecting information about culprits, the Memon brothers left for Dubayy on March 16th. The very next day, they left Dubayy for Pakistan via a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] flight Number 214 after off- loading six confirmed passengers. Their entry into Dubayy was sponsored by Beg General Stores.

All these investigations reveal a mind-boggling network of criminals and a massive conspiracy of ISI against India. Apprehension of several persons involved, speak of various details of Pakistan involvement in the whole episode. The conspiracy was hatched by Pakistan who was not satisfied of state-sponsored demolition of hundreds of Hindu temples in Pakistan. Pakistan was fully responsible in training field operators and procurement of sizable quantity of explosives, portions of which have since been recovered from different areas of Bombay and Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. The huge consignment of arms was landed surreptiously in District Raigadh of Maharashra on February 2 and 3, 1993 and received by Ibrahim Abdul Razak Memon, alias Tiger, alias Abdul Razak, with the assistance of his trusted landing agents Sharif Abdul Ghafoor, also Dada Bhai Daud Mohammad Pulse and Rahim Laundrywala, since arrested. The consignment included 238 cartons of explosives, 200 AK rifles, 250 to 300 9-mm pistols, a large number of detonators and light ammunition. According to evidence given by arrested persons, training was arranged in Islamabad between February 21st to the 28th. The parties left for Pakistan from Dubayy in two groups on February the 13th and February the 20th via PIA flights and were received at Islamabad Airport by ISI agents and driven off in a covered vehicle without going through immigration formalities. According to Gul Mohammad, training conducted by the bearded instructors speaking Punjabi and Urdu consisted of physical exercises, use of IED's [incendiary explosive devices], handling of grenades and firing from AK rifles. How can Pakistan deny its dirty hands in killing innocent people in explosive blasts in Bombay. The markings on consignments, entries on the passports of arrested persons and a record of PIA flights speak volumes of Pakistan's involvement in destabilizing India through engineering Hindu-Muslim riots and explosions at Hindu places.

BJP Demands Debate on State of Economy

BK1004161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded a national debate on the state of economy of the country. This was stated by the party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, while briefing newsmen on the first day of the party's national executive committee meeting in Calcutta today. He said his party is not opposed to foreign investment but it should not go against the national interest. The draft economic resolution placed for discussion today favored a strong and competitive economy in the global context. Mr. Vajpayee said that the country should evolve a new model of economy suitable for developing countries through negotiations with them. He said that as communism and capitalism have both failed, a new model is to be evolved. Mr. Vajpayee said that his party does not accept the Dunkel proposal in its present form but would favor continuing the negotiations.

Earlier, inaugurating the meeting, the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, demanded the convening of an all-party meeting on center-state relations. He criticized the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] for its stand on Article 356 [on imposition of president's rule in states].

ID Card Issuance to Citizens

BK1104125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded issuance of citizenship identity cards starting with border states for the prevention of infiltration into the country from Bangladesh. A resolution to this effect was adopted by the national executive committee now in session in Calcutta. The resolution said the continuing illegal infiltration from Bangladesh has assumed an alarming proportion endangering the nation's economy, unity, and integrity. It alleged that the center as well as the state governments of Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, and other northeastern states have failed to prevent the silent demographic invasion from Bangladesh. The resolution demanded a white paper from the center on all aspects of infiltration from Bangladesh.

Assimilation of Jammu, Kashmir

BK1204130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded the immediate formulation of an economic package to ensure development and assimilation of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. It also called for effective steps to contain terrorist activities and said that the militants are mostly mercenaries enticed by Pakistan. In a resolution adopted at the three-day meeting of the National Executive Committee, which concluded in Calcutta today, the party said that Article 370 [granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir] of the Constitution should be repealed.

Paper Urges PRC Ties To Avoid Trade Domination

BK0904153993 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 26 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Sino-Indian Coordination"]

[Text] A special concern has been expressed by the Agriculture Ministry and financial circles over the full convertibility of the rupee. The concern is that this may adversely affect agricultural production and that fertilizer prices may rise to a level that instead of decreasing the fertilizer subsidy, would require that it be increased. Whatever may be the solution to this concern in the future, very comforting news for India comes from the world fertilizers market. Prices of nitrogenous fertilizer—urea—are on the decline and they are at a new record low. In the background of this dramatic fall in prices are the sellers of urea—member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially Russia—who have large stocks of urea and who need the cash very badly. The international trade blocs, which also held the urea stocks, as expected had till recently arbitrarily fixed the prices of this fertilizer. Obviously, the agriculture-dominated countries like India had no alternative but to pay higher prices. But there is yet another story behind the fall in fertilizer prices, which is much more interesting than that mentioned above.

While the American, European, West Asian, and Far Eastern trading blocs have controlled the prices in the world urea market, the two main consumers of urea—India and China—have coordinated with each other and took mutually well-planned steps in the world market. As a result of Russia's compulsions on the one hand and the joint Sino-Indian efforts on the other, urea prices have now fallen sharply.

This partnership among the main purchasers of urea is a small but significant event in international trade in the sense that it has been practically impossible in the past to escape from the shackles of the trading prowess of developed nations. The strength of these shackles is reflected in statistics that a hike in fertilizer prices forces farmers to reduce consumption, which in turn reduces production in the same proportion. This may sound far-fetched, but the impact of this kind of Sino-Indian action might be that the farmers will not feel much pressure in spite of the cut in fertilizer subsidies, as a result of which the issue is not likely to be exploited for political gains and the farmers will be left free to opt for the alternative of carbonic fertilizer.

As countries like India and China occupy the position of important consumer markets in the world, it should be their endeavor to come together on other trade issues beside in the context of urea prices, and try to break the developed world's trade siege at various places. This could only be done by big countries like India and China because it is beyond imagination for small countries with small markets. The Sino-Indian official-level talks held in August 1992 have proved effective so far, and it is hoped they will be more fruitful in the future.

Iran

President Urges Azerbaijan, Armenia To Resume Talks

LD1204132593 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday said that it would be in the interest of the region and the world that both Azerbaijan and Armenia resume negotiations to solve their dispute on the basis of the Tehran agreement.

Meeting with the visiting Azerbaijani Vice President [as received] Panakh Guseynov, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also advised Armenian and Azerbaijani forces to return to their previous positions.

Since the very beginning of tension between Azerbaijan and Armenia the Islamic Republic has launched extensive efforts, for humanitarian reasons, to solve the problem and prevent it from deteriorating, Hashemi-Rafsanjani recalled.

"While maintaining our neutrality, we have always urged both countries to try to find political solutions and avoid war and bloodshed," Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out.

In view of the proximity of the war zone to Iran's borders, the issue is directly related to the Islamic Republic's security, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said and warned "The government of the Islamic Republic will have to adopt more severe stand if the clashes drag on."

However, the president expressed hope that with an immediate end of the conflict in the region Iran would not have to take such a position.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani voiced Iran's preparedness to do all within its power to solve differences between the two belligerent countries or cooperate with any other country which for humanitarian reasons favor an end to clashes.

While submitting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani a message from his Azerbaijani counterpart Abulfaz Elchibey, Guseynov called Iran as one of the good friends of his country and thanked Tehran for its support for the Azerbaijani people after they achieved independence from the former Soviet Union.

Guseynov also briefed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces and occupation of part of the Azerbaijani territory by Armenia. He described the current situation as critical.

The Azerbaijani vice president, cautioning that Armenia has launched a new round of aggression against his country, said Baku expects the Islamic Republic to try as before to end the clashes.

Azerbaijani Request for Military Assistance Criticized

NC1304104893 Paris AFP in English 0752 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 13 (AFP)—The semi-official TEHRAN TIMES on Tuesday criticised a request by Azerbaijani Vice President [as received] Panakh Guseynov for military aid from Iran to repel an Armenian offensive over Nagorno-Karabakh, saying the conflict may escalate into a "religious war."

The English language daily said in an editorial Guseynov had "stated the Azeri forces needed the assistance of the Islamic countries to liberate the occupied territories" in Azerbaijan.

But the vice president's request "could not lead to a solution of the conflict", the editorial said, clearly excluding any military involvement by Iran in the conflict.

It added "if the Islamic countries were to get involved militarily, the conflict would be intensified to the scale of a religious war."

"The only way to bring about a lasting settlement to the highly critical region of Nagorno-Karabakh is to engage into peace negotiations."

Guseynov made an unexpected visit here on Sunday to seek Iranian assistance in repelling an Armenian offensive against Azerbaijan. He met on Monday with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

While reaffirming Tehran's neutrality in the conflict, Rafsanjani warned Iran could resort to what he called more "concrete measures" if the fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan near its border continued.

Azerbaijani Envoy Urges End to Armenian Aggression

LD1004170993 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—The Azerbaijani ambassador here Nasib Nasibzade today appealed to the Islamic republic to help prevent the Azeri town of Fosuli from falling into the hands of Armenian forces.

He said the collapse of the town would be a "great tragedy" which would render thousands of its residents homeless.

He urged Tehran to take action through appropriate channels to prevent the advance of Armenian forces inside Azerbaijani territory.

The Azerbaijani ambassador cautioned that Armenian forces now advancing towards Fosuli were preparing to launch new aggressions.

In their attacks on towns and villages in Azerbaijan, the Armenians have used modern artillery first employed by the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan, he said.

He requested the Iranian Government to give material and spiritual assistance to the Azeri people to repel the Armenian aggression.

Last week, the Iranian Foreign Ministry voiced deep concern over the Armenian occupation of an Azerbaijani town and called on Armenian forces to immediately withdraw from the occupied land.

Daily Says Armenian Aggression To Make Region Insecure

LD1204193393 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said Saturday that the Armenian troops are planning a new invasion of Azerbaijan republic for occupying the city of Fizuli which, the paper said, would put Azerbaijan in a disadvantageous position.

It said: "Although the issue of Karabakh has already pit the region into instability with impacts outside of Caucasia but all evidence is proof of the fact that the possible fall of Fizuli will have even graver consequences for neighboring countries and especially for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"It is likely that tens of thousands of war refugees of Azeri descent will pour into the Iranian side of the border which means the expansionist operations of the Republic of Armenia has gone beyond the limits of a clash between two neighboring countries creating a 'national security' problem for Iran. For that reason it is necessary that we show more concern about what is happening near the Iranian borders because of the implications of those incidents for Iran.

The vice president of Azerbaijan is now in Tehran to offer latest information to the Iranian officials in that respect.

"The Islamic republic, to date, has made consistent efforts to act as a mediator in the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan in connection with Karabakh, and called on both sides to the conflict to show mutual understanding and eschew from militaristic acts. But as the expansionist goals of the government in Yerevan are becoming transparent it is necessary that the Islamic republic now use more direct language for condemning the invasion by Armenia, and Yerevan be warned that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not tolerate insecurity and chaotic conditions as a result of the expansionist goals of Armenia.

"The talks between the two sides would have solved the problems of the new republics in the region if they were held with a sincerely good will, and talks yet have the potential to solve those problems on condition that Armenia immediately discontinue all sorts of militaristic actions and that the invading troops return to the internationally recognized borders rather than indulge in acts that would further plunge the border into insecurity..."

The Persian daily ABRAR voiced similar feelings in its editorial Saturday saying: "The diplomatic delegation from Azerbaijan is visiting Tehran only one year since our country has been making every possible effort to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the dispute over the crisis in Karabakh. It is unfortunate that despite their being sincere those efforts were neutralized as the result of the extremely unwise political stands adopted by certain political leaders.

"It would seem as a matter of fact today that the war in Karabakh does not have a military solution to it. At any rate, however, aggression is condemnable in its whatsoever form. The Muslim people of Azerbaijan have lost opportunities which if they were allowed to use politically they would not now hear the booms of bombs in Karabakh. Men of power have been led by the government in Baku to give credit to the political promises of a people who today do not act more than they talk...

"The Gordian knot of that crisis can be undone today on condition that the masses (in Azerbaijan) be offered the opportunity to participate in decision making processes...

"Within the context of the goal of establishing peace in the region is ready to undertake a peaceful role in the process. (sentence as received]

"The Islamic Republic of Iran maintains that peace should be established only by negotiations and that the aggressor party should return to the internationally recognized borders, which will be all right if Baku is not now looking this way solely because it does not have any other alternative, or else the people in Azerbaijan will revise their choice of their political leaders.

Yazdi Criticizes UN Policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD1204144693 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi today criticized the United Nations and the Security Council's policy and asked: "Why the world does not form a war crimes tribunal to identify, try and punish war criminals in Bosnia-Herzegovina?"

Yazdi regretted that despite political manueuvers and propaganda claims regarding the the B-H issue, the crisis in the Balkans has worsened and the "greatest genocide" continues in front of the world eyes.

"The war-machine and the inferno set up in this region cannot be harnessed through mere admonitions." he said.

The ayatollah who was addressing judiciary officials also voiced the Islamic Republic's opposition to clashes between Azeris and Armenians and said that the differences should be settled through negotiations.

"The Islamic Republic is against any kind of force and occupation of other's soil," he underlined.

Iran Said To Cooperate With Libya on Missile Program

AU1304111093 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 13 Apr 93 p 3

[Alan George report: "Iran Buying Libyan Missile Plans"]

[Text] London—Iran continues to arm itself dramatically. In March Tehran bought 1,800 underwater mines, which could be deployed by the three Iranian submarines in the Persian Gulf. Iran bought the submarines from Russia in 1992, and another four have been ordered. According to unconfirmed reports, the mines also come from Russia. With this fleet Iran dominates the Strait of Hormuz between the Omani and Iranian coast, through which about one-quarter of the world's annual oil production is transported, well-informed government circles in London told DER STANDARD.

Libya's Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for his part, has passed on the plans for his Al-Fatah missiles—intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles—to Iran.

During the 1980's Libya tried to develop the Al-Fatah missile with the help of the private West German company Otrag. However, the project did not go any further than the construction of prototypes. All test launches failed. It is likely that Iran is now trying to develop the al-Fatah missile in a joint venture with Libya.

Ambitious Plans

The Al-Fatah is only one element of the ambitious Iranian plan to expand its capacity in ballistic missiles. The sources cite nine major Iranian missile systems: from the MGM-52 Lance—delivered by the Americans during the shah's regime—to the Chinese DF-25 with a range of 1,700 km.

Of particular interest for western capitals is the Iranian-North Korean Nodong-1 missile, which can carry a 1,000-kg warhead over 1,000 km. Soon the first missiles are to be delivered, and subsequently North Korea will help build production facilities in Iran.

British Government circles also believe that Iran is trying to build its own cruise missiles and long-range missiles—with a range of at least 2,000 km. Iranian purchasing agents have reportedly been showing particular interest in German and Japanese companies with experience in launching missiles.

Central elements for Iranian missile projects have come from West European and Japanese companies. Tehran has also recruited missile experts from the ex-Soviet Union, according to British Government officials.

Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri Begins 3-Nation Tour

LD0504090893 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri today left here on a six-day official tour which will take him to Greece, Poland and Croatia to discuss mutual ties and key world developments.

The Majles speaker will arrive in Greece on the first leg of his visit and will discuss mutual ties and important regional and international issues with his Greek counterpart and other officials during his two-day stay.

Developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina are among major topics of discussion between Nateq-Nuri and leaders of the host countries.

The Majles speaker is accompanied by a ranking parliamentary and economic delegation including ministers of Housing and Urban Development Sarajeddin Kazeruni and of Commerce 'Abdo Hoseym Vahaji.

In an interview at Tehran's Mehrabad Internatinal Airport before departure, he said that the visit was taking place at the official invitation of heads of parliaments of the said countries.

He hoped that the visit to Croatia of the Iranian delegation is aimed at creating further coordination between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia.

Returns After Visits

LD1004204593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Majles speaker Nateq-Nuri has just returned to Tehran after his six-day visit to the three countries of Greece, Poland, and Croatia. Upon his arrival at Tehran Merhabad Airport and speaking to IRIB, the Majles speaker expressed satisfaction over the results of his trip to the three countries and said he discussed various international and regional issues with the leaders of the countries where in many instances common and similar stands and views between Iran, Greece, Poland, and Croatia were stressed.

Pointing to the useful talks with Croatian officials, the Majles speaker said that in his talks in Zagreb he emphasized the need for Croatian mediation in ending minor differences between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Nateq-Nuri emphasized that the two countries of Iran and Croatia discussed the formation of an international court and the trial of Serbian war criminals and that the stands of the two countries over the issue was stressed.

Says European Trip 'Fruitful'

LD1104171393 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri today said his three-nation European visit was "fruitful" and set the momentum in international circles and in European countries for putting an end to the tragedy in Bosnia.

Interviewed by IRNA upon his return from Zagreb, Nateq-Nuri said the Bosnian issue figured prominently during talks with officials of host countries—Greece, Poland and Croatia.

He disclosed that in meetings with Croatian officials, Iran agreed to regularly receive Bosnian war disabled every month, increase shipment of medicine and foodstuffs to Bosnia and reconstruct 20 schools in that country, the cost of one of which is to be borne personally by a philanthropist.

The speaker said that an "important" economic protocol, signed by the two sides, calls for an increase in Tehran-Zagreb bilateral trade exchanges to the tune of dlrs 200 million, four times more than last year's.

He said that economic ties between Iran and Croatia, which serves as "bridge" to the war-stricken republic of Bosnia, is of "high importance and value."

On his talks with the Polish president, Nateq-Nuri said that Iranian officials discovered that there were presidents and officials in the world who shared similar views, and that the Islamic republic could broaden its ties with such states.

He described as "very good" the decisions adopted in Warsaw on economic cooperation between the two countries resulting in an agreement which includes Poland's collaboration in ship purchases, transfer of its ship building technology to Iran and routing of Iranian gas pipelines across the country to other parts of Europe.

Iran would also provide Poland with as much oil as it requires, said Nateq-Nuri, adding that the agreement was something refreshing to the Polish officials who are concerned over oil shortage after the Soviet collapse.

He said that it is to the benefit of the Islamic republic to import machinery and heavy industrial instruments from this East European country which enjoys high industrial potential.

On his visit to Greece, the speaker said that talks between the two sides were initially expected to cover political subjects but "fortunately its impacts on bilateral ties were beyond expectation."

Switching to Iraq, he said that Tehran was against any move aimed at disintegrating that country.

"We are strongly against Iraq's disintegration and respect its territorial integrity as a Muslim country," he underlined.

However, added Nateq-Nuri, Saddam cannot continue his rule and the Iraqi people should be allowed to elect the government of their choice.

"Washington's outrageous attack on part of Iraq and its scheming in the northern part of that country are not acceptable and the Islamic republic strongly condemns these measures," Nateq-Nuri concluded.

Nateq-Nuri, Ethiopian Envoy Discuss Relations

LD1204202293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri today met with Ethiopia's ambassador in Tehran and discussed with him Ethiopia's internal situation; the people's struggles against the racist South African regime; and issues related to the African National Congress. At this meeting, the Ethiopian ambassador called for the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation in Ethiopia's economic reconstruction after the latest developments in that country and the coming to power of the interim government.

The Majles speaker said: Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ethiopia are valuable and important in view of that country's cultural status and geographical and geopolitical position in the African continent. He expressed the hope that Iran and Ethiopia's relations will become extensive in the future.

Commentary Notes 'Hesitation' in Clinton Iraq Policy

LD1204215593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] While joint naval exercises participated by America, Britain, and Kuwait are in progress in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. commander of these operations yesterday announced these exercises send a message to Iraq that the allied forces are ready and on alert in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

In view of the military clash which occurred last Friday, and based on the comments of U.S. officials, the ties between Washington and Baghdad are once again faced with an uncertain future. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Bill Clinton recently made negative comments concerning the Iraqi regime. On the contrary, Iraqi officials have been backing Clinton since before assumption of U.S. presidency by him and have constantly expressed their hopes in an evident manner concerning the improvement of Iraq-America ties during his term of office and consequently about an end to the economic embargo of Iraq and its isolation.

Even after the recent attack by the U.S. aircraft, Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi ambassador at the UN, has noted: Clinton still needs more time for changing his stand vis-a-vis Iraq. In this same connection, the government daily AL-SURAH has stressed that the Iraqi leader's unwavering posture in this regard, while terming the Clinton administration as follower of the policy of the Bush administration on Iraq.

Probably, this posturing is due to the reason that the new officials in the White House have not shown any clear sign of closeness to the Iraqi regime and have insisted on not changing the U.S. policy on Iraq. Despite this, Baghdad during the past three months, by adopting the relatively positive attitude towards the UN and the UN Security Council, and also by promising to extend numerous concessions to America, has fervently endeavored to encourage Washington in establishing better ties with Iraq.

Political observers believe that there exists some sort of weakness and hesitation in the decisions of the Clinton administration towards the Baghdad regime. Under the conditions, once such countries as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are seriously trying to topple the Iraqi regime and Saddam, it appears that Washington has yet to find a suitable replacement for Saddam. At the same time, certain Arab states, as well as the public opinion too, want relaxation of pressure upon Iraq, specially in connection with the sanctions, so as to improve the grave economic situation faced by the Iraqi people. This is at a time when, simultaneous with the gradual change in Russia's foreign policy, further attention is being focused by that country towards its old ally.

It also appears that in view of the European countries' concern over the capture by America of the big market of Iraq, which is seeking to embark on reconstruction program with the help of its major oil resources, there have erupted certain differences between the U.S. and Europe over the future of Iraq.

This issue is also noteworthy: That the weak points of the Bush administration which were muted by the Democrats included the condition and fate of Saddam Husayn and Iraq, which had at that time not been decided. Now, considering the fact that Bill Clinton has the decision-making body in the U.S. foreign policy and is faced with the realities, it is not known as to what the main stand of his administration vis-a-vis Baghdad is in this regard.

Certain observers do not rule out the possibility that he still needs more time in this regard. In case there are plans to change the Washington policy in favor of Iraq, he must prepare further grounds and act cautiously on the matter.

Indian Defense Ministry Report 'Surprised' Observers

LD0904203493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] The Indian Defense Ministry, in its annual report, which was released on Thursday, called the Islamic Republic of Iran as a security threat for India. This report, which was submitted to the Indian parliament, by referring to what is called as Iran's effort for strengthening its defense capability and modernization and the strengthening of the Iranian armed forces, has created the possibility of Iran's assistance to Pakistan and a probable conflict with India [as heard].

In this report, reference has been made to expansion of military ties between India and the West. This report has surprised and this in view of the ties between India and Iran. Although the Indian Defense Ministry's report cannot be much significant in itself, its release at a time when the agents of world arrogance are trying at world and regional levels to depict the Islamic Republic of Iran as a regional threat can indicate the emergence of an improper stance in the Indian officials' viewpoints.

It is extremely important to clear this issue that the Islamic Republic of Iran, after going through an eight year long war, has to reconstruct the country in all areas, especially that intensified regional and international threats against security of the region and the Islamic Republic of Iran have caused special sensitivity in this connection.

Neverthless, if such necessary and ordinary measures are considered as rising threats by the Islamic Republic of Iran, that too against India, it cannot be much realistic and proper [as heard]. This is why the Islamic Republic of Iran has, from the very beginning, paid attention to improving regional ties and expanding friendly ties in the region as an objective in its foreign policy. Such efforts were centered especially on the expansion of ties with Third World independent countries, including India.

Over the past few years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly encouraged finding regional solutions to regional conflicts, with the participation of regional countries with a view to improving and strengthening ties with countries in the region. This is why this policy has been pursued as a stance in the country's national security policy, for basically the security of the regional countries has been subject to practical threats as a result of weakness in regional ties and lack of mutual understanding in which foreign powers' interferences have played a basic role.

At any rate, the release of the Indian Defense Ministry's report not only has surprised Iranian observers, but Indian ones too. Nevertheless, the same observers do not hesitate to attribute such an outlook to India's new stances in its foreign policy, especially toward the United States.

The Associated Press reports from India that defense analysts believe inclusion of the name of Iran in the Indian Defense Ministry's report is in line with the growing military cooperation between India and the United States, which indicates the U.S.'s influence on Indian defense policy.

Beyond a doubt, the two countries of Iran and India have always played special roles in protecting security and stability in the region. Basically, the two countries have identical viewpoints in relation to regional security and this arises from a common understanding of regional realities as well as centuries old experience of peaceful living by the two nations alongside each other; something which cannot be easily ignored.

Nepal

Government Forms Water Resources Commission

BK0904135493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Kathmandu, April 9 (AFP)—Nepal has formed a high-level National Water Resources Development Council (NWRDC) to harness the country's vast water resources, an official said on Friday.

The NWRDC, headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, is made up of leaders of both ruling and opposition parties in the House of Representatives, water resources experts and senior government officials.

"A member from each political party in the lower house has also been included in the council to help forge unity at the national level and help harness the country's vast water resources for economic development," the official said.

"The council will work to create a congenial atmosphere for national consensus in connection with the utilization of water resources in accordance with the development requirements of the country," he said.

The Nepal Communist Party (NCP) had been calling for the setting up of a NWRDC made up of members of all political parties, a NCP source said.

"Our party will extend cooperation for the success of the NWRDC and help develop water resources in Nepal," the source said.

Hydrologists here say Nepal has the potential to generate 83,000 megawatts of hydro-electric power, but less than two percent has so far been utilized for power generation.

The problem in hydro-power projects like the 21-megawatt Trishuli and 14-megawatt Devighat in the west, built by India as a turnkey project, are out of commission since last year, they said.

While the Japanese financed the 90-megawatt Kulekhani south of the capital Kathmandu, the first and second phase hydro-power project is producing only half of its total capacity because of two years of successive droughts which have created an acute nationwide power shortage.

Technical problems on a number of hydro-power projects have obliged the government to cut electricity for an average of 12 hours a day, hydrologists said.

Prime Minister: Refugee Talks With Bhutan Fail

BK1204155893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Kathmandu, April 12 (AFP)—Talks between Nepal and Bhutan on the repatriation of over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal have failed, Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala said Monday.

Speaking to the press at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on his return from the two-day summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Dhaka, Koirala said while there he had discussed with Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuk on the repatriation of Bhutanese sheltered in south-eastern Nepal.

"During our talks, the king referred to the threat of terrorism without specifying, but it is an absurd phobia about terrorism in Wangchuk's mind as we don't have a joint border with Bhutan," Koirala said.

"During our talks, the Bhutanese king agreed to continue official talks through the formation of a joint committee to identify the Bhutanese of Nepalese origin sheltered in refugee camps in southeastern Nepal," he said.

"We have also agreed to issue a joint press statement before returning home explaining the refugee problem after the joint official committee's meeting," Koirala said.

"But when the two sides met, the Bhutanese officials presented a draft statement describing the Bhutanese refugees as displaced groups," Koirala said adding, "so the Nepalese side also presented a draft describing the destitute Bhutanese as refugees but the Bhutanese side refused to accept it and the talks ended without any results."

Asked whether he was considering a second round of talks with Wangchuk, Koirala said, "To hold further talks with Wangchuk will be futile, we would rather hold talks with different U.N. bodies for economic assistance for the Bhutanese refugees on humanitarian grounds."

Meanwhile, a Nepalese Home Ministry source said that up to the end of March, 102,600 Bhutanese refugees had entered Nepal and over 80 percent were sheltered in camps run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in southeastern districts of Nepal.

The exodus of refugees was continuing at the rate of 150 to 200 daily, the source said.

Koirala also told newsmen that he informally informed Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao of his talks with the Bhutanese king.

Asked if he would invite Rao or other Indian ministers to Nepal to discuss the Bhutanese problem, Koirala said, "That will be my second move. We want to move step by step to solve this problem."

"The Bhutanese refugees are creating social, economic and environmental problems for Nepal," he said.

Koirala described the seventh SAARC summit as more "successful" than previous ones, and said many important economic programmes for the South Asian region were adopted.

He hoped the accord on the South Asian trade relationships would help create open economic trade markets.

Journalists Tried for Offending Royal Family

BK1304003893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1832 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Kathmandu, April 12 (AFP)—Three prominent Nepalese journalists have been tried under the State Offence Act for allegedly offending members of the royal family, a court source said Monday.

The publisher and editor of the pro-democracy weekly "REAWAKENING," Mathbar Singh Basnyet and Sarchandra Basti, and the publisher of the pro-Marxist weekly "VISION," Shambhu Shrestha, were arrested for their allegedly derogatory remarks against the members of the royal family.

REAWAKENING published a photograph of one of the royal family members with Indian film star Salman Khan and questioned the suitability of a royal family member posing for a photograph with him. It also made allegedly defamatory remarks against one of the king's brothers, the district court source added.

"If found guilty, they will be jailed for three years or fined rupees 3,000 (60 dollars) or both," the court source said.

Legal experts here were surprised that the journalists were tried under the State Offence Act instead of the Press and Publication Act-1992.

The Press Act bars the publication of anything that might cause offence to the king and royal family members though newspapers are allowed to criticize the elected government, its ministers or other senior Nepalese officials.

A group of leftist campus students protested Monday morning against the arrests. The journalists had been active in the popular movement to end the former partyless system of government and restore multi-party democracy in Nepal in early 1990.

Government Allows Import of Goods From India

BK1304091293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Nepal has allowed the import of specified goods from India including natural rubber, cotton, polyester, rayon fiber, electric motors of power generating sets on payment in freely convertible currency. The new arrangement comes into force from today. Other items given this facility are iron ingots, hot and cold rolled sheets, and machinery excluding spare parts. Kathmandu has also allowed liberal foreign exchange to businessmen going abroad on trade promotion.

Our correspondent says this step has been taken by the Nepalese Government as a follow-up of the joint communique signed during Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Kathmandu in October.

Pakistan

Seventh Minister Resigns From Government

BK1204154293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 12 (AFP)—Pakistani Minister of State for Production Jam Mashooq Ali resigned from the cabinet of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday, the seventh minister to quit during the current political crisis.

Ali told a news conference that despite repeated complaints from him to the prime minister, Sharif had left him idle and not a single file had been given him in 15 months.

He said he had already sent his resignation to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

His resignation follows that of Defence Production Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani who quit Saturday, citing Sharif "indifferent response" to his suggestions on important national, international, regional and administrative issues.

But observers linked the resignation to the current power tussle between the president and prime minister that has caused a split in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) and other desertions from the cabinet.

Operation in NWFP Against Arabs Criticized

BK1104125593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] Peshawar—Ninety-eight out of the 223 Arabs apprehended by the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] police during the past five days in the campaign against illegal foreigners face externment as they have failed to produce documents to justify their stay in Pakistan.

Syed Masud Shah, IG [Inspector General] police, NWFP, informed Saturday that those staying illegally would have to leave Pakistan. He however added that no deadline has been fixed either for the ongoing police operation or externment of illegal aliens.

That the police operation had slowed down was evident on Saturday as no fresh arrests were reported from anywhere in Peshawar. Police sources however said some arrests were made on Friday night.

All those nabbed are kept at the Hayatabad and University Town police stations, two major areas of concentration of Arab settlers in Peshawar, before transferring those overstaying to the Gorgathri Tehsil in an old part of the city. There they are lodged in a huge marriage hall, seldom used for weddings, located in the midst of police barracks.

A visit to Gorgathri on saturday revealed the tight security measures adopted by the Peshawar police to guard Arab prisoners. Cops posted there said they were under orders not to allow journalists or photographers to come near the building.

Several young Arabs, carrying clothes and eatables, were however seen trying to visit those in police custody. "This operation is an American and Indian conspiracy against Pakistan, Islam and the Arabs", shouted Ghassan al-Andulusi, a young bearded Arab from Tunis. "We came here for jihad but look at the treatment meted to us by the Pakistan government", he complained.

Ghassan spoke in English while his two colleagues, who refused to be identified, talked in Urdu and Pashto. All argued that they were neither terrorists or criminals and didn't deserve the police harassment to which they had been subjected for the past five days.

The Frontier police chief however denied the accusations. "Its not a sweeping operation and we don't intend to create difficulties for those in possession of legal documents", he explained. He pointed out that those netted in the police operation obviously felt aggrieved even though they knew they had violated Pakistani law.

Ghassan had brought a small boy, Mohammad, to meet his father who was behind bars in Gorgathri. The boy wept for a while, prompting Ghassan to claim that he had been crying since his father's arrest. Some prisoners, Ghassan and his colleagues said, were caught in midnight police raids on their houses. "The government should have served us with notices to leave Pakistan with one months or even earlier instead of treating us like criminals", they said.

All the 13 Arab and Islamic non-governmental organisations [NGOs], operating out of Peshawar to provide relief to war-affected Afghans, observed strike on Saturday to protest against the government's action. The strike which would continue on Sunday, was called by

the Islamic Coordination Council (ICC), which coordinates the activities of the 13 NGOs. These NGOs had threatened to pull out of Pakistan if harassment of their staffers continued.

Some Arabs critical of the police crackdown said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ordered the operation following his recent meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which the latter complained that Peshawar was the headquarters of Egyptians and other Arabs waging war against their governments. The sources also pointed out that Arabs on the wanted list, especially those in Egypt and Algeria, had already crossed over to Afghanistan as they knew that the Pakistan government was under tremendous international pressure to deport the Arabs.

Apart from Afghan Mojahedin groups like the Ettehad-e Eslami (Sayyaf) and the Jamatul Da'awa of late Maulana Jamilur Rahman, the Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan and the JUI (Samiul Haq group) have also criticised the anti-Arab operation. Senator Maulana Samiul Haq was reported to have phoned president Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Saturday to request him to order a halt to the police action.

Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister-designate of Afghanistan, added his voice to those who have condemned the operation in a statement from his headquarters Carasiab near Kabul on Saturday. He refuted the argument that Arabs who took part the Afghan jihad were involved in terrorism or that they were a threat to Pakistan. He wondered why action was taken against Islamic NGOs while the Western NGOs were spared. He recalled that the Islamic NGOs were fulfilling a genuine need and had provided vital humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees.

The Hezb-e Eslami chief said Pakistan should allow the Arabs running the NGOs to stay on its soil or let them go to the country of their choice.

Meanwhile, the police was also said to have visited the Jallozai camp near Pabbi to track down any Arabs staying illegally in Pakistan. Dost Mohammad, an official of the Ettehad-e Eslami (Sayyaf), told the cops that there were only five Arabs with valid documents in the camp. Frontier police chief Syed Masud Shah however said that they would prefer carrying out a search of Jallozai camp to nab foreigners living illegally in Pakistan.

Government Arrests People Running Illegal NGO's

BK1304090293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain has said that the government is arresting people who are running illegal Nongovernment Organizations [NGO's] in North-West Frontier Province [NWFP]. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday evening, he said that the NWFP government is scrutinizing the permits of all NGO's operating in the province.

IJI Leader Criticizes Action Against Arabs

BK1304074293 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Islamabad—Jama'at Eslami leader [vice president of IJI] Professor Khurshid Ahmad has condemned the arrest of Arab volunteers in Peshawar under foreign pressure.

"Addressing journalists at Institute of Policy Studies, he said that the Arabs served this nation and the Afghan jihad for 14 years and now are being treated as criminals.

"The government launched an operation against the Arab non- governmental organisations on the eve of US visit of Chaudhry Nisar Ali, special assistant to the prime minister. The United States, Egypt and Algiers have complained [to] Pakistan of harbouring terrorists on its soil.

"Professor Khurshid said that the United States itself granted refuge to 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, facing capital punishment in Egypt, but is pressuring Pakistan to expel the Arabs which also include the son of Mr. 'Umar facing a similar sentence in his own country.

"Senator Khurshid Ahmad also criticised Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif for dropping Azad Kashmir Premier Sardar Abdol Qayyum Khan from the entourage for SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit being held in Dhaka.

"It is far more serious than removing of signboard of Azad Kashmir house from Agha Khan road during a SAARC summit in Islamabad in Benazir era, an act which was severely criticised by Nawaz Sharif, the then Punjab chief minister", said the JI parliamentarian.

"Prof Khurshid said that if Nawaz Sharif cannot discuss Kashmir in the summit, he should refuse to meet the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in Dhaka.

"Senator Khurshid Ahmad also criticised western apathy to suppression of Kashmiri Muslims. He referred to the recent statement of national conference leader Farooq Abdullah in which he said that Kashmir situation cannot be handled without talking Pakistan not confidence. [sentence as published]

"The JI leader said the United States is against Pakistan as it is apprehensive of economic, political and military potential from growing cooperation in the region comprising Pakistan, Central Asian republics, Turkey and Iran as a threat to its interests.

"Senator Khurshid Ahmad said the United States as a general rule closes down its aid missions in a country two years after stopping the aid to that country, but despite the passage of three years, the sole super power is still

maintaining its aid offices in Pakistan. The officials working there, the JI leader observed, must be indulging in espionage.

"He also disclosed that retired officers of ISI in Pakistan get employment in known US agencies without completion of their two- years moratorium on jobs. This is a very serious matter he said."

Legal Action Against Ex-Minister Considered

BK0904141193 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 8 Apr 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Rawalpindi (PPI)—Federal Industries Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has disclosed that the government is considering taking legal action against Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the former minister of state for economic affairs, because he has accused Pakistan of being involved in terrorism. Addressing a hurriedly called news conference at Lal Haweli, he said that the government is legally examining the issue as to why the former minister of state made such a statement at a delicate time when a federal minister has gone to the United States to reject the allegations of Pakistan's involvement in terrorism and to hold discussions in this regard. He added that the government is utilizing all its resources to assure the world that Pakistan is a civilized democratic country and is opposed to all kinds of terrorism. He asserted that the Indian lobby is behind this statement, because no minister in the world has ever carried out such filthy propaganda against his own country.

British National Held for Heroin Smuggling

BK1104083193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Karachi (PPI)—Customs drug enforcement sleuths at Quaid-i-Azam International Airport, Karachi, nabbed yet another out- going passenger, holding British nationality, following recovery of 3.8 kilograms of heroin sealed in "cardboard".

"During the course of examination of outgoing passengers of Gulf Air's flight No. GF-4003 to London via Muscat, a British national Aijaz Muhammad, 23, was stopped and questioned for the contents of his baggage but no satisfactory answer came forward.

"As such a thorough search of his baggage was conducted and the cardboard pasted inside the suitcases were found to have been soaked in heroin.

"These cardboard pieces were removed from two suitcases carried by the passenger. A total of 3.8 kilograms of heroin soaked in cardboard was recovered and the passenger was booked on charge of smuggling under Custom Act, 1969.

"Further investigations are in progress."

'Huge Quantity' of Heroin Seized

BK1104084193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] "Nowshera Customs mobile staff yesterday seized a huge quantity of heroin powder worth rupees millions and arrested five persons.

"According to details, on a tip off the Custom mobile squad blocked the main GT [Grand Trunk] Road, near Nowshera. During the checking of a Rawalpindi bound flying coach No. Pro 5327, the Custom staff recovered 7 kg of fine quality heroin powder and arrested five persons."

Police 'Smash' International Drug Gang

BK1204105993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 Apr 93 p 13

[Excerpt] Lahore—The CIA [Crime Investigation Agency] police have smashed an international gang of notorious drug smugglers indulged in smuggling of heroin to abroad in a novel way by keeping the capsules of drug in their stomachs to deceive the customs staff.

The CIA also recovered the heroin, packed in polythene and thin rubber in shape of capsules, worth millions of rupees which was made ready to transport it abroad via Pakistan. The drug smugglers were identified as Mohammad Hamid, Mohammad Latif, both Nigerian nationals, and Aslam Gara and Mohammad Rafique.

The SP [superintendent of police] CIA, Lahore, Hamid Mukhtar Gondal, addressing a press conference here Sunday, revealed that the drug smugglers, two out of four from Nigeria, had transported heroin of billions of rupees to USA, Turkey and Nigeria during last three years and conducted the operation successfully by adopting a novel way to dodge the law enforcing agencies. [passage omitted]

Probe of Ex-Army Chief Assassination Allegations Set

BK1304090493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister has set up a special judicial commission to investigate allegations made by the widow of former army chief General Asif Nawaz about the death of the late general. The commission will be headed by Justice Shafiur Rahman of the Supreme Court with Justice Abdul Qadeer Chaudhary and Justice Abdur Rafique Tarar as its members. The commission will submit its report within a month.

Parliamentary Team Leaves for PRC, DPRK

BK1104084693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] A seven-member parliamentary delegation led by the Senate chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, left Islamabad

for Beijing today on its way to Pyongyang on a week-long visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The visit coincides with the birthday celebrations of the DPRK president, Mr. Kim Il-song. The Pakistani delegation will meet Korean leaders and discuss various regional and global issues and Pakistan-Korea relations.

'Positive Elements' Mark Russian Minister's Visit

BK1104095193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "End of Hostility]

[Text] While it cannot be claimed from the just concluded Russian foreign minister's [FM] visit that the entire gamut of problems that have characterised bilateral relations in the past have been ovecome, it had some positive elements that can only be welcomed. On the positive side is the initialing of a draft treaty which sets out internationally recognised principles to conduct relations, besides defining the fields of cooperation. Of the areas in which cooperation is sought, the most important, and prehaps the most easily achievable is strengthening economic cooperation. A trade protocol and review of the exchange rate between the ruble and the rupee are under discussion. These measures could go a long way towards helping Russia's desperate economic plight as well as opening up Russian markets to Pakistani products. An additonal spin-off could be the enhancement of Pakistan's position in Central Asia, where Russia still exercises a great deal of political and economic influence.

While economic cooperation is in harmony with the pragmatic realities of the present world situation, political relations still carry some of the weight of ambiguity imposed by the Soviet Union's past close links with India. President Yeltsin, on a visit to India in January this year had reiterated well-known but unrealistic positions on the question of Kashmir as a continuity from the Soviet past. The Russian foreign minister, Mr. Kozyrev is said to have offered certain "clarifications" on Yeltsin's remarks in Delhi about Kashmir being an integral part of India. While the nature of the clarification is so far not known, the tenor of the foreign office spokesman's briefing seems to reflect a growing appreciation in Russia that it is in its own enlightened self-interest to shed the baggage of recent history and adopt a more evenly balanced approach to relations with Pakistan. The Russian FM wishes Pakistan and India to discuss and resolve the issue of Kashmir. Since he did not make any reference to the UN resolutions on the question, this seems a formula for a return to the Simla accord. Whether that can lead to any progress on the problem, even with possible Russian mediatory efforts, is open to question, given India's track record of obduracy. Kozyrev advised both Pakistan and India to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] but also supported Pakistan's proposal for a five-power regional nonproliferation conference. Military assistance from Russia so far seems to be something for the distant future, nothwithstanding Russia's need to export weapons produced by its huge armaments industry to keep its factories running. Pakistan has once again offered to help on a humanitarian basis to get Russian POWs held by the Afghan Mojahedin groups freed. On balance, irrespective of any possible lingering mutual suspicions, Kozyrev's visit may come to be seen, after the end of the cold and Afghan wars and the break-up of the Soviet Union, as the beginning of a turn from 45 years of hostility to normal relations.

Ishaq Khan Receives IAEA Chief 11 Apr

BK1104143293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Dr. Hans Blix, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. Various aspects of cooperation between the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and the IAEA were discussed during the meeting. The agency's contribution toward improving safety standards at Karachi Nuclear Power Plant were also discussed. The president expressed satisfaction at the IAEA's help and assistance in this regard.

Additional Army Contingent Leaves for Somalia

BK1204145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Another contingent of Pakistani troops left this afternoon for Mogadishu to join the united task force in Somalia. The departure of the 190-member batch marked the beginning of the movement of two additional battalions of Pakistan Army for Somalia to reinforce peacekeeping efforts being exercised by the United Nations task force. Two Pakistani battalions are already in Somalia on a peacekeeping mission. Addressing the troops before their departure, Brigadier Abdul Ghafoor of Infantry Directorate reminded them that they were going to a Muslim country which demanded of them an exemplary conduct. He urged them to complete their assigned mission in a way which brings good name to the Pakistan Army and our country.

'Unprovoked' Killing of 22 in Kashmir Decried

BK1204150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, another 22 people have been martyred by Indian occupation troops across the valley. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], troops opened fire on the funeral procession of martyred youth in Doda, killing three mourners. The unprovoked firing sparked emotion-charged protests in town against the brutalities by the Indian troops. Another report says occupation forces martyred 14 people in detention during the last 24 hours. Five people each were martyred in Baramula and Anantnag Islamabad, two in Pulwama and one in Gandarbal. In Srinagar, three dead bodies

were recovered from the debris of the houses and buildings burned by Indian forces. Dead bodies of three people arrested two days ago were also recovered in Bakatpura in Anantnag Islamabad. Clashes between Indian troops and mojahedin have also been reported from Pulwama, Gandarbal, Tral, and Pampur. Three Indian troops were killed in Pampur alone.

India Accused of Influencing Terrorist Image

BK1104092993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Apr 93 pp 1, 10

[By Qaisar Mahmood]

[Text] Karachi—The Indian diplomatic staff in Pakistan were allegedly playing a key role in influencing the US authorities to declare Pakistan a terrorist state and a base for drug smugglers, intelligence sources said.

The Indian high commissioner and the deputy high commissioner in Karachi have been acquiring Pakistani passports and supplying them to foreign nationals. These foreign nationals then fan out and indulge in smuggling and terrorist activities which bring a bad name to Pakistan.

The main purpose was that if the smugglers or agents were apprehended in some other countries or even in India, they could be presented as Pakistanis.

Most of the Pakistanis nabbed and beheaded in Saudi Arabia recently on drug smuggling charges were not Pakistanis, the investigators believe. We were trying to establish their local connections and addresses in Pakistan, so that it could be ascertained whether the person executed was really a Pakistani or not.

The Pakistani authorities, sources said, have been feeling that since the Clinton administration has taken over in the US, there have been efforts to "cuts Pakistan down to size". We have a fear that the Clinton administration was very near to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, an senior official said. The move was, he said, fully supported by the Indian-Israeli lobbies.

Referring to Indian intelligence activities in portraying Pakistan as a terrorist state and drug base, Pakistani passports were being collected and used after photo change (commonly known as PC). The passports were being collected from the intending visitors on fake addresses in India by the Indian staff.

The Pakistani passports so collected were then supplied to Indian agencies who through their local connections with smugglers provide the same to foreign nationals involved with smuggling to and from Pakistan.

Local petty smugglers commonly known as "khepias", maintained more than one passport and frequently visited India. Such elements generally use fake addresses in India while filling out visa forms.

The staff of the high commissioner and deputy high commissioner keeps an eye on them and after identifying such people they place a condition of verification from Indian agencies prior to issuing a visa.

When this condition is communicated to [words indistinct] with a police record or is known to be a khepia, he prefers to slip away, leaving his passport with the Indian staff. In addition to this, the Pakistani citizens belonging to northern parts were also being targeted saying they were not Pakistanis but Afghanis.

There were reports of harassment and abuse by the staff pushing such intending visitors out of the premises of the high commission and deputy high commission.

In such a situation, the Pakistani passports were being held by the Indian staff. Such passports were used through "PC" in order to give foreigners a Pakistani identity.

A number of such Pakistani passports holders were later apprehended by the Indians themselves and used as Pakistani terrorists active in Indian held Kashmir and east Punjab.

At the same time foreign nationals involved in drug smuggling were given a Pakistani identity and when they were caught in the US, Saudi Arabia and other countries, it was being used as propaganda against Pakistan.

Open, 'Relaxed' Diplomacy Between Pakistan, India Urged

BK1304092193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Apr 93

[A.B.S. Jafri commentary]

[Text] After some anxious moments of uncertainty, a meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Indian Premier Narasimha Rao did after all take place. It is only fair to mention that if there was any doubt, it was not because of anything said or done by the Pakistan premier. However, it is a great relief that the two got together to assuage each other's unease up to a point.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif was only articulating the innermost feelings of his countrymen when he assured Premier Rao that Pakistan stood to gain absolutely nothing by India's difficulties and problems. On the contrary, Pakistan is firmly of the view that peace, tranquility, and prosperity are a precondition for the well-being of the vast South Asian subcontinent and its nearly a billion people.

The governments of Pakistan down the years have believed that it is in moments of heightened tension that contacts between Islamabad and New Delhi should be constant and at a meaningfully high and effective level. Lack of contact only enhances the chance of misunderstanding and miscalculation. It may not be fair to insist that the government and leaders in India thoroughly disagree with this attitude. The

more open and relaxed is the diplomacy between the two countries, the lesser will be the possibility of making errors because of miscalculation.

After all, Pakistan and India have been able to set up a string of joint committees and commissions for frequent exchange of information and ideas. These official bodies have proved their worth in some anxious moments of tension. It is to be regretted, however, just when the temperature rises above normal tolerance, the authorities in India hasten to adopt a pessimistic attitude and jump to conclusions which are based more on hatred, mistrust, and suspicion instead of correct and concrete knowledge of facts. This is wholly avoidable.

The Nawaz-Rao meeting in Dhaka, however brief and hurried, has made some positive difference. The two prime ministers agreed to resume contacts at various official levels. Only, a date for resumption of these contacts remains a distant and doubtful prospect.

It would, of course, be wishful to look forward to instant improvement in the climate over the subcontinent. But, what can be said with a measure of confidence is that the premiers' meeting has changed a nearly black picture to find shape at least. [as heard] If the two governments do manage to resume official contacts for which the machinery has been in place for some years, some of the graver misunderstandings may become less severe and more manageable.

In any event, it has to be admitted that Pakistan and India should always remain mindful of the wholesome effect of closer and more frequent contacts. A point which apparently is often lost from the reckoning of the authorities in New Delhi is that peace and prosperity in the subcontinent is indivisible. It is moonshine for anyone in New Delhi or Islamabad to believe that one country can prosper and flourish at the biggest cost of the other. It is just not possible.

Nations must ensure peace in the neighborhood, if they wish to sleep in full peace. Unfortunately, there remains a class in India which is wedded to some illusions of grandeur of conquest and worst form of revenge by imaginary historical grievances. This class is still living in medieval times with closed minds. They are doing their country grievous harm by pulling into the abyss of parochialism and rigid religiosity.

India is a country of infinite variety. It just cannot be held together and administered constructively with closed-mind [word indistinct]. It is for Indian leaders and people to map out their [words indistinct]. No outsider can or should try to teach them what is best for them. But experiences are [words indistinct], which are a common heritage of the people of this subcontinent, do teach us that in big-hearted and high-minded policies lie the best interests of all concerned. It is a folly to believe that one can prosper by doing the other down. In difficult times it is good to be at each other's side with goodwill and best wishes.

Sharif on 'Unjust Pressure' Over Nuclear Program

BK1104071093 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Apr 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] Lahore, April 9—Pakistan will not yield to any foreign pressure with respect to its nuclear program nor request the United States to restore military and economic aid, suspended because of the Pressler Amendment.

This was declared by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif while speaking at a function arranged to observe the death anniversary of Hameed Nizami, the founder of daily NAWA-I-WAQT, at the Alhamra Art Centre here on Friday.

Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne and ministers for Defence and Industries, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

The prime minister said Pakistan would try to stand on its own feet at this hour of trial and would not ask for foreign assistance. However, he regretted that Pakistan was being subjected to "unjust pressures" over its peaceful nuclear program while countries which had attained the capability (to make nuclear weapons) had been spared, a reference to India which had exploded a nuclear device in 1974.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif declared that Pakistan wanted good relations with all countries, including the United States and India. Pakistan, he said, wanted to remove misunderstandings with the United States and also have good relations with India provided it solved the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions.

About the allegations made by Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali at the time of tendering his resignation as minister for economic affairs, the prime minister said in presence of such "friends" Pakistan did not need "enemies".

Highlighting the importance of the press, the prime minister said there was a time when the press had a close link with political leadership. The very creation of Pakistan, he said, was the result of their working in unison. He said the same relationship was required between them now to enjoy the fruits of independence.

Before independence, Mr. Nawaz Sharif said, plight and backwardness of Muslims could be attributed to subjugation but what justification could be offered for the same problems after attaining freedom? he asked. He said the people had divided themselves on the basis of regional identities instead of being reognised by their national identity. He warned that a nation "getting astray" from the path of national identity could be a mere mob.

The prime minister said: "Assault on the Muslim identity in Pakistan's neighbourhood poses a great challenge, in the presence of which it would not be wise to waste our energies on petty debates and activities."

Pakistan, he said, faced external and internal challenges simultaneously, which aim at harming the Islamic identity of the nation.

To meet the challenges successfully, he said the press and the political leadership were required to work unitedly.

He regretted that at present, both the press and the political leadership lacked seriousness and the trend of "kite flying" was on the increase. He called for effective steps to check the trend.

The prime minister paid glowing tributes to Mr. Hameed Nizami and said persons like him were born once a century. He was was man of principles who did not bend before fascists and dictatorial powers. He said Mr. Nizami spent all of his life struggling first for the creation of Pakistan and then for strengthening democracy in Pakistan.

He exhorted newsmen to realise the sanctity of their profession and support the politics of truth, justice and morality which would not only be a great service to their profession but to the nation as well.

Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne said both politics and the press were threatened by a new culture. He said politics had stooped so low that a minsiter of state, while tendering his resignation, held Pakistan responsible for terrorism.

Mr. Wyne said it was a matter of great shame that the former minister was applauded by an Indian diplomat during his press conference and while hurling allegations he did not bother even to keep in mind his own links with Pakistan.

The chief minister also lashed out at an Urdu daily which allegedly misreported the proceedings of PML [Pakistan Muslim League] secretaries general meeting at Islamabad on Thursday.

The meeting was very positive and held in a very cordial atmosphere but it was projected as a failure by the newspaper. He said though some quarters wanted to break up the PML, it would remain united.

About the ministers who have resigned, the chief minister said morality demanded that they vacate their assembly seats which they had been able to get on PML tickets."

Terrorism Issue 'Irritant' in U.S. Ties

BK1104100993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Apr 93 p 7

[Editorial: "A Problem of Attitude"]

[Text] Whether on the nuclear issue or on the question of terrorism, official talks between Pakistan and the United States have started to appear more and more a dialogue of the deaf. The outcome of the meeting between US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Special Assistant Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, testifies to this. After the meeting, which primarily focussed on Pakistan's alleged support to terrorism, Nissar Ali Khan could only find a neutral term like "useful" to describe the results of his talks with Mr. Christopher. The Americans were categoric. In a statement issued after the meeting, the State Department called the discussions as "frank", saying that the United States was concerned with continuing reports of "Pakistani support for militant groups engaged in terrorism in India." In other words, from Washington's point of view, the Nissar-Christopher parleys did not go far enough in allaying US concerns over the issue.

It is difficult to see how discussions can bear fruit when the two sides have such diametrically different views of the problem. Washington, heavily influenced by the efficient propaganda work done by India's modern Goebbels and the dictates of the post-cold war world, seems bent upon extorting a confession from Islamabad of abetting terrorism or supporting terrorists. On the other hand Islamabad, shell-shocked by the rapidity with which the US has changed its colours, is desparately trying to show its erstwhile ally the other side of the picture, and to pull it back from taking any hasty step. As both talk in defence of their respective positions, neither understands what the other is saying and why.

Needless to say, the situation is untenable and the sooner it changes the better it would be for the future of Pak-US ties. But this is unlikely to happen as long as Washington, propelled by pre- fixed notions, keeps Islamabad under the constant pressure of being declared a terrorist state. What is actually hindering meaningful progress in sorting out this new irritant in Pak-US relations is the crude approach Washington has adopted in communicating its concerns to Islamabad. Marked by threats, both veiled and explicit, this approach has reduced Pakistan's options to choosing between the devil of confessing to the crime it has not committed and the deep blue sea of being declared guilty and punished. If the US is genuinely sincere in resolving its differences with Pakistan over the issue of terrorism and is not using this as an excuse to force Islamabad to change its nuclear behavior, then it ought to first give Pakistan's point of view full ear.

'Normal Statehood' Affected by Terrorism Tag

BK1104103793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 9 Apr 93 p 10

[Editorial—"The Terrorism Problem"]

[Text] More than a hundred Arab NGO [non-governmental organization] 'Mojahedin' have been rounded up in Peshawar and some released after verification of papers. The Arabs arrested said that Pakistan was doing it to appease the United States, that they were not terrorists but were there to help the 'jihad' in Afghanistan, and their efforts were directed against the

enemies of Islam. Interior Minister chaudhary Shujat Hussain says the operation was launched after friendly Muslim countries protested to Pakistan about the actvities of these Arab. Somehow, Islamabad is going to find out who among them has been guilty of terrorism. Ex-minister Sardar Asif has just finished accusing the government of dragging its feet on Arab protests, but he is supposed to be an agent of Jews and Hindus; even Chaudhary Shujat thinks he was wrong to make the accusation. But Qazi Hussain Ahmad of the Jamaat has not approved of the action Chaudhary Shujat has taken against the Arabs and says they should not be touched. Pakistan is not a terrorist state, but can anyone make out what the government is doing?

Saying that terrorism is going on from the territory of Pakistan makes you a Jewish-Hindu agent, so let us only say that some Arab countries are complaining that their terrorists are coming from Pakistan. We whole-heartedly condemn the Americans for cying foul, because they are all Zionist agents, but what about these friendly Arab countries? Some radicals from among us will say these states are being ruled by people who should be overthrown in any case. Some say the same thing about IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad], about Chaudhary Shujat and Mian Nawaz Sharif, because these two still believe that a state should observe international good manners. what are these Arabs doing here now that the Afghan 'jihad' is over? They couldn't be taking part in the civil war, because that is against Islam. If they are readying themselves for assult on some place outside Pakistan, then Pakistan has to get worried. We are a country that has broad diplomatic and trade relations with the rest of the world. It is bad for normal business to harbour people who have apparently nothing to do in Pakistan. If the various centres of power in Islamabad are divided over the issue, then no action will be effective, and Pakistan will have to decide what role it wants to play, because it is fast slamming the door on normal statehood."

Editorial Defends Stance on SAARC Trade Accord

BK1304103693 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "A step forward"]

[Text] On a bilateral level, the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit may have remained stuck in the same old grooves of mutual mistrust and in certain cases even of hostilities, but on a multilateral level, it did manage to take a step forward by signing a treaty called the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA). Pakistan was opposed to it but finally succumbed to pressure from other member states. Pakistan's lack of enthusiasm for it and India's enthusiasm for it may have been rooted in the fact that India having the largest economy and the biggest industrial base in the region stood to gain the most from it. According to this treaty all the member countries are bound to impose 10 percent lower tariff on imports from each other. It would make their products much more competitive against imports from the rest of the world. In fact India, if not prevented by quotas and other restrictions in the importing country, could easily swamp any market in the region. Apart from a lower tariff, India would have two other advantages over any other exporter—one, lower cost of production because of cheaper labour and two, lower cost of transportation because of the geographic contiguity of the states. Pakistan's objection may have been prompted by the fact that in a hostile political environment, Indian inroads into Pakistan's economy would not be in Pakistan's interest. Equally importantly, Pakistan's own industries, in a nascent stage as these happen to be, may not be able to stand up to the competition. Pakistan, and for that matter, every country of the region, would of course have the option to ban imports of those commodities which it wishes to protect internally, but then there will be pressures from its own trading community for freer imports. And in their favour would be the general argument for freer world trade being promoted by Asia in GATT, etc. Despite the pitfalls inherent in such a situation for Pakistan, the signing of such a treaty, in so far as it is likely to promote more trade in the region, is a step in the right direction.

Yet it is obvious that economic considerations alone will be of little help in an alliance where members are not even willing to speak to each other on other problems. The Indian Prime Minister almost gave a political snub to Mian Nawaz Sharif by keeping him waiting till the very end for a bilateral meeting. And when he finally agreed to meet him he was more interested in discussing Bombay than Kashmir. It only goes to prove, if any proof was needed, that all that talk of solving Kahsmir through direct negotiation under the Simla Agreement, is totally divorced from reality. Kashmir will never be solved through bilateral talks because India will not talk meaningfully about it. Let the US, UK, Russia and others who have been urging Pakistan to do so, understand that clearly.